Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-92-233 *3 December 1992*

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Cuba

Rosales Notes Self Sufficiency of Armed Forces

FL0212202592 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 2 Dec 92

["Part" of interview with Division General Ulises Rosales del Toro by Zenaida Costales, date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Costales] Could you give us some examples of how the Armed Forces have helped Cuba's economy during the special period?

[Rosales] Actually, what the Armed Forces do is not only to ensure combat readiness, but to rise to the situation that the country is experiencing and ensure that the Armed Forces stay within the country's economic capabilities. I believe that, in this regard, the productive tasks have become more important, not only to help the country produce food, but to guarantee our self-sufficiency. With this we can ensure that food resources do not have to be allocated to the Armed Forces.

[Costales] Can you give me some specific examples?

[Rosales] Well, basically there is the Armed Forces' food program, on which we have been working hard for a number of years. Undoubtedly, the levels we have reached in tubers and vegetables meet our needs to a certain extent. Other production areas are more complex; for example, grains. We need to continue making a greater effort with meat production, but there is no doubt that in the near future we should be able to meet all our needs.

Threatened Venezuelan Plane Continues to Miami

FL0312021892 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Excerpts] A report from Santiago de Cuba informs us that the Venezuelan airplane which made an emergency landing there because of a false bomb threat has now continued on its trip to Miami.

While the plane was isolated on the runway of the Santiago airport to undergo the appropriate technical inspection in the midst of tight measures, the pilot and some of the 107 passengers spoke about their impressions to Cuban television. [passage omitted]

After a meticulous search, which determined that no explosive was on board, the 107 passengers and eight crew members were able to continue their trip with gratitude for the good treatment given them by the authorities in Santiago de Cuba.

Escalona Meets With Italian Communist Delegation

FL0312031092 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] Juan Escalona Reguera, the president of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP] met this morning with the delegation from the Italian Communist Refoundation Party [RC] that is visiting our country. During the meeting, RC President Mr. Armando Cossuta, who is heading the delegation, praised the Cuban people's efforts to overcome their difficulties.

[Begin Cossuta recording in Italian with simultaneous translation into Spanish] Despite the economic difficulties, all of us in the coalition [words indistinct] have confidence in the possibility of facing and overcoming these difficulties. We have a rational, calm confidence. What we would also like to know, and what we will try to learn while we are here visiting, is about the people's different ways of life. Today we are going to visit hospitals, schools, agricultural centers, and tourist centers, and at the end of all this, we will make an evaluation and we will present this evaluation to our party and people when we return to Italy. [end recording]

For his part, ANPP President Juan Escalona made brief statements to the media regarding the matters that have been discussed in his talks with this delegation.

[Begin Escalona recording] The main thing was to explain the content of the modifications to the Constitution, and the new electoral law; to explain to the delegation our whole process for nominating candidates, etc., as well as the changes that have been made to the Constitution; and also to talk about interlegislature relations. In fact, there is an important visit from the Italian Parliament that we are expecting at any time. And, all that ... [pauses] (?Armando and I) have discussed the need for and appropriateness of creating a friendship group made up of Italian and Cuban legislators. It was a very refreshing, very frank, very open (?exchange). [end recording]

The RC delegation arrived in Cuba on 30 November and up to now has met with high-ranking Communist Party of Cuba and Cuban Government officials. This week, the Italian delegation will continue carrying out an extensive schedule of meetings and visits that will allow them to get to know in more depth the efforts Cubans are making to get through the current situation.

Foreign Minister Alarcon Comments

FL0212021692 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon has met with a delegation from the Italian Communist Refoundation [RC] Party which arrived today in Cuba. RC President and Senator Armando Cossuta expressed to

foreign and Cuban media that he is mostly interested in strengthening relations between the two countries during his visit.

[Begin Alarcon recording] Italy is one of the countries where solidarity with Cuba is most evident on the mass and national levels. I took advantage of this opportunity to express our gratitude and appreciation to him [Cossuta] and his delegation, who represent a very worthy sector of Italian society and are our brothers because they are communists. [end recording]

The Cuban foreign minister also gave his opinion of the new U.S. Government's position regarding Cuba.

[Begin Alarcon recording] I think it is really too soon to tell what the new government may mean in terms of policy changes toward Cuba. I think it will spend a good deal of time on American problems and it will be a little more modest in its claims of world hegemony and domination. [end recording]

Alarcon thinks the hegemonic role of the United States must have a limit, and now Cuba is proud to be one of the borders of that limit.

Human Rights Violation Claim by U.S. Rejected

FL0212212792 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Commentary by Dianelys Garcia Sixto]

[Text] The U.S. Government is now trying to erase, through a new chapter of harassment, the bitter taste of its latest diplomatic defeat at the United Nations, which was the approval of a resolution asking for an end to the embargo against Cuba. Shielded by the appearance of a consenting silence, the U.S. Government is now desperately undertaking spurious and dirty maneuvers to accuse Cuba of supposed human rights violations.

On 24 November, a report drawn up under a resolution by the Human Rights Commission in Geneva was circulated at the United Nations, to be examined during this 47th session of the General Assembly. Our country has in fact rejected it, considers it illegal and a direct result of U.S. pressures, as well as a clear example of a political vendetta.

If we look at its background, we can see that the Yankee government has been presenting this issue at the Commission in Geneva since 1987, but it was only after the collapse of the socialist bloc that it succeeded in having a special rapporteur appointed. If we look more deeply into the source of our protest, it lies precisely in this: When is a special rapporteur appointed? Washington has imposed a procedure which previously had only been applied in cases of massive and flagrant human rights violations, as in the Israeli-occupied territories, Guatemala, El Salvador, or Chile under Pinochet.

Including Cuba in this list is, in everyone's eyes, a manipulation, as was stated by Senegalese Ambassador (Ali Buthain), who for 10 days in 1988 interviewed more than 1,500 people in Cuba, including prison inmates. In 1989, the Human Rights Commission in Geneva asked our country to continue its cooperation with the UN secretary general, much to the displeasure of the U.S. Government, which had been seeking a condemnation. During this entire period, the Yankees never ceased their shady proceedings and pressures, and thus in 1991 they succeeded in getting approval for the appointment of a special rapporteur to the secretary general with less than 50 percent of the votes in the Commission.

It was then that Cuba rejected this ruling and refused to cooperate with Colombian Rafael Rivas Posada, the special representative. This man's report, which was described by Cuba's representatives as offensive, was entirely based on statements by exiles and counterrevolutionaries living outside Cuba. There was another procedural maneuver in addition to this one, also sponsored by Washington: Rivas Posada resigned and was replaced in July 1992 in the UN Economic and Social Council [Ecosoc] by Swede (Carlos Johann Grok). The task given to Rivas Posada of presenting a preliminary report to the the 47th session of the General Assembly then passed to (Grok).

This document is now being circulated at the United Nations. A few hours ago, Cuba presented a draft resolution which states the illegality of the appointment of Swede (Carlos Johann Grok) as special rapporteur, which is the essence of our rejection. In spite of U.S. hegemonism, the world today sees us as we are: a dignified country resisting the most merciless pressures and an intense embargo. These are more than conclusive demonstrations of the most complete violation of all human rights. Cuba's situation and our ability to increase our efforts to resist are today proof of our own dignity.

Robaina Calls For More Patriotism, Revolutionism

FL0212235292 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2302 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Roberto Robaina, the first secretary of the Union of Young Communists [UJC], affirmed that in times like these we must be more patriotic and more revolutionary. Upon opening the main ceremony of the 36th anniversary of the landing of the yacht Granma and Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] Day in Manzanillo, which was also attended by Commander of the Revolution Juan Almeida, Robaina said that we will celebrate the triumph of the people at Jose Marti Revolution Square on 30 [December].

Speaking to more than 60,000 Manzanillo residents, Robaina pointed out that today this historic city proclaims itself the first fortified city of the country, since beginning today, the province is ready to wage the battles which fate will force us to undertake.

Speaking at the ceremony for FAR Day, Alfredo Enriquez Pina, the first secretary of the Communist

Party of Cuba for Granma Province, said that the province is almost prepared to be declared ready for defense in the second phase.

Palmero Comments on Efficiency in Sugar Harvest

FL0212145392 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Candido Palmero Hernandez, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba for Havana Province, pointed out that, during the current sugar harvest, efficiency is the most important thing in order to cut the sugarcane that the country needs. Palmero made these comments as he awarded a banner to Havana's Giron Victory Sugarcane Contingent.

During the ceremony, held in Bauta Municipality, 59 brigades of regular volunteers, and the Association of Small Farmers received the Cuban flag as a combat banner. These brigades are committed to cutting more than 70 million arrobas of sugarcane during the current sugar harvest. Since its creation, to date, this Havana contingent has cut more than 1 billion arrobas of sugarcane, which is equivalent to the production of 1.1 million tons of sugar.

Pedro Ross Leal, secretary general of the Cuban Workers Federation, underscored the importance of analyzing, on a daily basis, the work discipline, the efficiency of every work shift at the sugar mill, as well as the quality of the cane cutting and the completion of the tasks by each brigade.

Roundup of Economic Activity 18 Nov to 2 Dec

FL0312013592

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of fileworthy reports on economic developments in Cuba carried on Havana radio and television in Spanish between 18 November and 2 December.

Camaguey Chemical Plant Resumes Production—The Camaguey chemical plant has resumed production after a year-long standstill due to a lack of resources. The report adds that the plant hopes to produce 8,000 tons of ammonium nitrate to be used on the sugar crops. (Radio Reloj in Spanish 2030 GMT 18 Nov 92)

Workers in Jaguey Grande Harvest Over 6 Million Quintals of Citrus—reports that mobilized workers and students in Jaguey Grande have harvested over 6 million quintals of citrus during the present campaign. The report adds that over 7,200 tons of grapefruits have been exported from the Isle of Youth, and that another merchant vessel is being loaded. Rebelde notes that 3 million glass containers have been recycled by Committees for the Defense of the Revolution members. The report further adds that members of Colonel Mambi Juan Delgado Contingent in Havana have harvested over 150,000 quintals of agricultural products this year to-date. (Radio Rebelde in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Nov 92)

Victoria de Giron Gives Harvest Results—This year's citrus harvest amounts to 6.26 million quintals at Victoria de Giron Scientific Production Center in Jaguey Grande Municipality, Matanzas. The report adds that this center produces 40 percent of the national citrus production, mainly oranges and grapefuits. Reloj notes that 7 percent of this citrus has been exported as fresh fruit, 35 percent was allocated for industrial processing, and the rest is for consumption in Havana City and Matanzas Provinces. (Radio Reloj in Spanish 2046 GMT 20 Nov 92)

Granma Province Yields 1.6 Million Quintals of Rice—1.6 million quintals of rice have been harvested in Granma Province so far, with 55 percent of the total area harvested. Average yield has been almost 2,000 quintals per caballeria, the highest in recent years, leading the nation in this indicator. The 1992 planting plan of 2,942 caballerias has been fulfilled. (Radio Rebelde in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Nov 92)

Politburo Member Highlights Efforts in Coffee Harvest—Politburo Member Nelson Torres Perez highlighted the efforts made by the people in Cienfuegos in the coffee harvest of that province. (Radio Rebelde in Spanish 1000 GMT 23 Nov 92)

Majority of Nickel Industry Located in Holguin Province—Majority of report that one characteristic of the nickel industry is that the majority of resources are concentrated in Holguin Province. The report notes the close location of mines, plants, and ports, making production costs very low. The report notes that the Ernesto Che Guevara and Pedro Soto Alva plants located in Moa, and the Comandante Rene Ramos Latour plant in located in Nicaro are capable of producing 65,000 tons. NTV further adds that investments in the Camariocas plant will increase production by another 30,000 tons. A complex system of mechanization surrounds the industry in Nicaro and Moa. The industry employs 18,500 workers, 19 percent of whom are women. (Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Nov)

Holiguin Province Planting Aided by Oxen—Holguin has planted more than 2,300 caballerias over the past two years using animal powered equipment. The province has more than 32,600 oxen, 2,000 of which are directly assigned to agricultrual tasks. (Radio Reloj in Spanish 2030 GMT 2 Dec 92)

Artemisa Crops Enterprise Doubles '90 Harvest—The Artemisa Miscellaneous Crops Enterprise will conclude the year, having produced 950,000 quintals of food crops, twice that of 1990, and that Artemisa sends an average of 66,000 quintals to market each month. Although it also produces plantains and vegeables, 65 percent of its production is bananas.

Ciego de Avila Province, in the first 10 months of 1992, harvested 1,055,110 quintals of tangerines, limes, grapefruit, and oranges. This was achieved using only one-third the amount of fuel used in 1991. (Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2320 GMT 2 Dec 92)

Haiti

Adrien: Bazin Leading Country to 'Catastrophe'

FL0212222592 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1730 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Father Antoine Adrien, coordinator of the presidential commission appointed by ousted President Aristide, accuses Prime Minister Marc Bazin's government of wanting to institute a single party in Haiti. In a press release, Father Adrien says Bazin's government is launching itself in a forward, lost flight [as heard] which risks dragging Haiti along in a catastrophe, the extent of which no one can predict.

Father Adrien accuses Marc Bazin of challenging the national and international community by holding elections in his favor if his plan to solve the crisis, which must be publicly issued within ten days, is not accepted. Adrien accuses the prime minister of accelerating the fall of the gourde by printing money, and points out the horror of the people's misery.

For Father Adrien, this situation is not the result of the embargo, but rather of the repression and extraordinary violence that prevents the active population from remaining at home and working in its residential areas. Father Adrien also protests what he calls an extraordinary degradation of the political, economic, and social situation of the country, and an institutionalized disrespect for human rights by the Army and the government.

Evans Paul Condemns Convening of National Assembly

FL0212215792 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] The first reaction to the convening of the National Assembly office comes from Port-au-Prince Mayor-elect Evans Paul, who condemns such a decision which, according to him, does not comply with the provisions of the 29 March 1987 Constitution. Evans Paul sees such a decision as just further aggravating the political crisis:

[Begin Paul recording] To the nation, I denounce in advance the sacrilege that Senator and Senate President Dejean Belizaire, in association with de facto Prime Minister Marc Bazin, is preparing to further scourge the Constitution through the illegal convening of the National Assembly office, which has been devised to include three members in an illegal Permanent Electoral Council so the Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti, MIDH, can hold official elections for 15 years.

The Committee for the Establishment of Democracy, KID, says no. The National Front For Change and Democracy, FNCD, says no. The people say no. This coup will not work. It is a violation of Article 192 of the Constitution, and the National Assembly office has only one mission—to lead the sessions of the National Assembly in compliance with the Constitution. Such a sacrilege! On the one hand they are beating up students, implementing dictatorship at the university, and injuring high school students, while on the other hand they are trying to bury the country even more deeply in crisis and de facto. Even some members of the Alliance recognize that this is too ugly.

Senators, deputies, citizens, leaders: I beg you, on behalf of the nation, the people, and your children of tomorrow, let us put our heads together to reestablish democracy in the country, just as the people decided in the 16 December 1990 and 20 January 1991 elections. [end recording]

Assembly Vice President on Meeting

FL0212175992 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] National Assembly President Senator Dejean Belizaire will convene the National Assembly office in a meeting on 2 December at 1500 GMT. The meeting aims for the National Assembly office to form a commission of deputies and senators who will choose three members for the Permanent Electoral Council [CEP], because the National Assembly has still not met on this matter. Senator Amos Andre, National Assembly vice president, provides more details:

[Begin recording] [Andre] [Words indistinct] the departmental assemblies met. They were appointed by the three powers: the legislative, the executive, and the supreme court. There are 27 names. From those names, three will be chosen to form the CEP that will then renew the Senate, which is in charge of other activities concerning the country. In that sense, the National Assembly president wanted to hold a national assembly. Since this national assembly could not be held, the state has no grounds because the state has various responsibilities to fulfill. It has [words indistinct]. In this sense, the National Assembly president will meet with the National Assembly office.

The case will be given to a bicameral commission which will include numerous senators and deputies who will write a report for the necessary followup.

[Correspondent] Sen. Amos Andre, won't there be many debates on the National Assembly office's decision?

[Andre] It is normal. That is what makes democracy. When there is an issue, everyone can give his opinion, discuss and analyze it. [Words indistinct] to find democracy and social progress. It is normal. It is good that there will be many reactions because many people are concerned about what is happening in the country.

[Correspondent] Would this decision not violate the 29 March 1987 Constitution?

[Andre] No, it will not violate the Constitution because the National Assembly office is the authority entitled to do so.

[Correspondent] Do you not think that a great division might arise from within the political sector?

[Andre] As I told you, every time the country's interest comes into play, there is always division [words indistinct]. Something that is important for us and I think that is a very important matter that many people react because many people are watching over the country's interests and many people want democracy to progress. It is a very good thing that many people react in order that [words indistinct] and respect the Constitution.

[Correspondent] Sen. Amos Andre, do you not think that the [word indistinct] will worsen with such a decision?

[Andre] I cannot say that it is a real decision because when a commission....[pauses] Traditionally and legally, it is at the level of commissions that a decision is made to have a final solution. I believe that is the right procedure, the fact that the National Assembly thinks of forming a commission [words indistinct]

[Correspondent] Once the commission chooses the three members, will they be ratified by the National Assembly or will they be sent to the [word indistinct] so that they become part of the CEP?

[Andre] [Words indistinct] when a commission performs a task, the National Assembly is supreme. The Assembly can approve or reject the decision made by the commission.

[Correspondent] Does that mean that those three people chosen by the commission will not be immediately approved by the executive?

[Andre] I am not saying that [word indistinct]. If the National Assembly does not meet immediately, the names can be chosen while waiting the Assembly's meeting for ratification or rejection.

[Correspondent] If the National Assembly rejects the three names?

[Andre] Three other names will be chosen.

[Correspondent] What if this CEP does not have time to start the electoral process before the National Assembly meets to ratify or reject the choice?

[Andre] That is not a problem. When the National Assembly... [changes thought] The National Assembly is obliged to choose even if it does not choose the three persons chosen by the commission. It must choose three people. [end recording]

Belizaire Blames Evans Paul for Fall of Aristide

FL0212223692 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1730 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Contacted by Radio Metropole, the president of the National Assembly did not want to specify what exactly will be done at this Wednesday [2 December] meeting. Senator Belizaire pointed out, however, that the office will do all in its power to prevent the loss of democratic assets. The Senate president also said that the country is not quite in compliance with the Constitution, ever since 30 September 1991. According to Dejean Belizaire, it is necessary to try to save the parliamentary institution.

[Begin Belizaire recording in Creole] People like K-Plum [Evans Paul], in their struggle for power, in their struggle to replace Prime Minister Rene Preval, have led us to the situation we are facing today. The situation exists and we are doing all in our power to prevent democratic assets from being lost. That is all we are doing. We are repairing the serious mistakes these men have made, which led the country to its present situation.

If Aristide's government fell, these men are responsible for it. It was their struggle for power, to take Rene Preval's place, that led to this shameful situation that we are facing today. We do not pretend that we are in an absolute constitutional state. We all know that since 30 September 1991, we have been trying to save the Constitution. Today we are trying to save the Parliament. We think it is our duty and we will do all in our power to save it. [end recording].

The meeting of the National Assembly office is then scheduled for 2 December. It should be recalled that two sessions of the National Assembly convened by the consensus government were postponed due to lack of quorum. [passage omitted]

In parliament, the opinions are divided on the formation of the Permanent Electoral Council under the current government.

Jamaica

Patterson Lobbies Italian Support on Banana Issue

FL0212184092 Bridgetown CANA in English 1750 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Dec 2, CANA—Jamaica's Prime Minister P.J. Patterson has made "strong representation" to the Italian Government in a bid to get its support for the maintenance of current trading arrangements between the European Community and Caribbean banana producing countries. According to the official news agency, JAMPRESS, Patterson's lobbying effort came during a brief stop-over in Italy last week on

his way from Africa to Argentina where he is representing the Caribbean Community at a Rio Group meeting this week.

Last week, Patterson attended the Group of 15 (G-15) meeting in Senegal and also visited Nigeria where he successfully negotiated the renewal of an oil deal with the Nigerian Government.

The Jamaican prime minister reportedly told Fabio Fabbri, under-secretary of state in the office of the Italian prime minister, that preservation of the Lome IV Convention which provides a protected market for some African, Caribbean, and Pacific [ACP] products within Europe was crucial.

Banana farmers in the Windward Islands, Belize, and Jamaica would face economic ruin and national economies would be severely affected if the single European market denies access to Caribbean bananas at current favourable terms, Patterson said.

"We have spent a great deal reviving the industry and try to make it more efficient. It is important that the creation of a single market should not allow the admission of dollar bananas in an uncontrolled manner that would wipe out the entire ACP banana economies," Patterson said.

Producers of so-called "dollar" bananas in Latin America are demanding that the present preferential quota system enjoyed by ACP producers in Europe be replaced by what they say is a more equitable tariff system. They say the present quota system is unfair and amounts to unfair trade practice. ACP producers fear that plentiful and cheap Central American bananas, produced on large plantations and with cheap labour would wipe them out of the market unless the current quota system is maintained.

Patterson also discussed with Italian Government representatives the status of various bilateral projects in power generation and infrastructure, currently underway here.

JEA Urges Release of Hard Currency

FL2511132792 Bridgetown CANA in English 1230 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Nov 25, CANA—Even while expressing confidence that there is enough foreign exchange reserves to support the Jamaican dollar, the Jamaica Exporters Association (JEA) is urging its members to release funds from their hard currency accounts to ensure the continued stability of the local currency. The call comes amidst increasing nervousness here that, unless the inflows for the winter tourism season begin soon and are strong, that the Jamaican dollar could resume its slide vis-a-vis the U.S. dollar against which it floats freely.

In a statement issued Tuesday [24 November], the JEA suggested that Jamaica was now holding an estimated U.S.540 million dollars in reserves, enough to hold the Jamaican dollar to the current exchange rate of J22.20 dollars to U.S.1 dollar, during the present "dry season" for foreign exchange earnings. After a virtual free fall since early last year, the Jamaican dollar revalued from an all-time low of almost 30-to- one U.S. dollar in mid-April to remain stable since July at 22.20 to one U.S. dollar. The revaluation and stabilisation followed an initiative by hotelier Gordon "Butch" Stewart supported by much of the private sector to sell foreign exchange earnings to commercial banks at below the market rate.

Financial analysts say the local currency is particularly susceptible at this time because the September-to-December period, between the high-earning tourist industry's summer and winter seasons, is a low point for hard currency inflows. It is also the period during which merchants and retailers increase foreign exchange spending—stocking up on imported goods in preparation for Christmas shopping.

Even while the dollar has remained stable, foreign exchange purchases by commercial banks have declined from in excess of five million U.S. dollars daily in mid-August to between three and four million dollars daily currently. To add to the uncertainty, opposition leader Edward Seaga has accused the Central Bank of purchasing foreign exchange at above the quoted commercial bank rate—a charge the institution has denied. And Tuesday's Jamaica HERALD reported on its front page that the United States Embassy and an unnamed commercial bank had traded U.S.750,000 dollars at 25.20 Jamaican dollars, three Jamaican dollars above the official rate.

In its statement, the JEA said the 540 million U.S. dollars now in reserve "comprise some 300 million U.S. dollars in foreign currency accounts in the commercial banks, BOJ (central bank) reserves of another 210 million U.S. dollars, and the commercial bank's stabilisation fund of over 30 million U.S. dollars".

Panday Comments on Constraints of Corruption

FL2511225692 Bridgetown CANA in English 2018 GMT 25 Nov 92

[By Linda Hutchinson]

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Nov 25, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago's opposition leader, Basdeo Panday, said Wednesday [25 November] at the start of the debate on the 1993 national budget that corruption and maladministration were among the most severe constraints to the Republic's economic development.

"Our research has revealed that with the elimination of corruption, maladministration, and waste in the public sector, the cost of government and administration can be reduced by some 25 per cent," he said.

The leader of the United National Congress (UNC) said that on the almost 7 billion dollar (1 TT dollar = 23.5 U.S. cents) budget, government would save 1.5 million dollars. This could result in an easing of the tax burden on business and individuals, leaving resources for savings, investment, and development, Panday told Parliament. Stating that there was a need for a proper system of accountability, Panday said the auditor general cannot and did not do an efficiency audit on the activities of the government, while the public accounts committee in Parliament was hardly more than a farce.

"I predict that if we do not do something about our parliamentary system in general and the question of accountability in particular—and do it fast—at the end of the present regime, the Caroni Racing Complex Scandal and the Tesoro Affair will smell like roses compared with the stink that will emanate from the Piarco Airport development project and the sale of our state-owned companies," he said. He was referring to projects which have raised questions about the award of contracts.

"But let me assure this house and the electorate that we shall continue to fight for reform of the parliamentary system that makes for meaningful accountability and responsibility of the government to Parliament and the people," Panday said.

He told Parliament the budget was not a substitute for a system of accountability. Describing the budget as "wickedly deceptive," Panday said that Finance Minister Wendell Mottley sought to blame the international economic scenario for the decline in the domestic economy and was applying the solutions of the large countries on the twin-island state. He also questioned how the government intended to improve the domestic capacity for exports and strengthen the country's external competitiveness.

"We are not Brazil, producing more than a half the world's supply of coffee or ghana, producing most of the world's consumption of cocoa, or Japan, with its cars and computers and other high-tech consumer durables," he asserted.

"We are Trinidad and Tobago—1.2 million people, living on less than 2,000 square miles of land, surrounded by rich seas and a land blessed with reserves of petroleum and gas. That is the Trinidad and Tobago we must look at when we set out goals and devise strategy and tactics for getting there," he remarked.

Panday said that after 30 years of political independence of Britain, Trinidad and Tobago had not yet agreed upon its national goals.

He added, "We are still a nation tugging at itself and pulling in different directions."

"If we have not yet agreed upon our destination, how can we chart the course for our journey? Unless we are prepared to tackle these fundamental socio-political issues, the budget exercise will, year after year, sound like a stuck gramophone record."

Panday noted that Mottley, in his budget, did not touch on the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which he described as the most important international economic development as far as the country was concerned.

"That being the case, what does the minister say we are going to do about NAFTA? Nothing. Are we going to seek entry in NAFTA—with or without our Caricom (Caribbean Community) partners? If yes, how soon? If no, what alternatives do you have for dealing with NAFTA? Not a word from the learned minister," Panday said.

The opposition leader also said that Mottley was "less than straightforward" in the house when he said that the gross foreign exchange reserves declined from U.S.607.9 million dollars at the end of June to U.S.427 million dollars at the end of the year, while outflows accelerated in January amid speculation surrounding the 1992 budget. Gross reserves fell further to U.S.306 million dollars at the end of January this year.

Stating that the rapid flight of foreign exchange in January was the result of a "stupid and reckless" statement by Prime Minister Patrick Manning, that he was thinking about floating the currency, Panday said that it was not only an inauspicious start to the year, but an act of "gross misconduct."

"As a result of the prime minister's indiscretion at the beginning of this term, the Central Bank was forced to further tightening of its monetary policy, resulting in tight liquidity together with a rise in interest rates, which in turn had the effect of dampening investments and increasing unemployment," Panday said.

He also charged that the Manning government did worse than the previous regime since economic activity declined by 1 per cent in the first half of the year compared with the same period last year.

Flight of Car Racket Suspect Embarrasses Government

FL0312001892 Bridgetown CANA in English 2128 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Dec 2, CANA—The Jamaica Government, embarrassed by the flight of a ruling party activist accused of orchestrating a motor vehicle import racket, was under pressure Wednesday to ensure his return and for criminal action against those who helped him. However, Ian Ramsay, one of Jamaica's leading criminal lawyers, said in a statement he had advised Danhai Williams it was perfectly legal for him to travel to Miami as there was no warrant out for his arrest.

But the opposition Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) kept up its attack on the government over the matter, calling for an independent inquiry into how Williams, who runs a

petrol station in eastern Kingston, was able to slip out of the country despite a "stop order" being in force against him.

National Security Minister Keith Knight conceded in Parliament that Williams, using an assumed name, was shepherded past immigration onto a flight to Miami last weekend by a police bodyguard of Bobby Jones, the junior minister for public utilities and transport. The minister also confirmed in Parliament Tuesday night that policemen, customs officers, customs brokers, civil servants, and at least one member of the trade board were suspected of being part of the car import ring.

Williams' departure from Jamaica is the latest of a long list of security lapses which have allowed the opposition to maintain pressure on Knight, with demands for his resignation. The issue blew up last week when police and soldiers raided Williams' business place and home and took away, the authorities say, documents relating to their investigation of the import racket. Police said they also found magazines and ammunition for the Glock handgun, which apparently is the latest status symbol of the criminal element here.

It is estimated that at least 65 vehicles have been imported in the scam, using bogus documents and under-invoicing to avoid paying millions of dollars in duties and other charges. The Revenue Protection Division (RPD) of the Finance Ministry had been investigating the scam for several months.

Williams is a licensed holder of a firearm. His gun license was revoked in 1988 by the former JLP administration, but he appealed the decision to the courts. Knight reported to Parliament that he reinstated the licence on the basis of a police recommendation following the appeal. The security minister said on hearing that Williams had left the country, the Jamaica police had promptly contacted U.S. authorities. However, Williams could not be detained, having presented a valid "green card" and his valid Jamaican passport to U.S. authorities.

"Further, because up to then the RPD had not reached the point of issuance of a warrant for Mr. Williams' arrest, there was no legal basis for his return to Jamaica," Knight told Parliament. Knight assured parliamentarians that the RPD and police would be pressing further with their investigations and that contact would be maintained with United States authorities regarding Williams. He said a team of prominent lawyers comprising Frank Phipps, Katherine Phipps, and Lloyd Barnett had been retained by the RPD to prosecute the case against those involved in the import racket.

However, the JLP remained unimpressed by the minister's assurance and its parliamentarains kept up a barrage against the government. A party statement branded as "abominable" Williams' departure and recalled that it was only last week that it had tabled questions in Parliament about the status of the investigation and had asked what steps were being taken to prevent the flight of suspects.

St. Lucia

Banana Technology Modernization Workshop Begins

FL3011183092 Bridgetown CANA in English 1706 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, Nov 30, CANA—Caribbean banana producers, worried about the industry's prospects, have been told they need to get more involved in the technological modernisation of the sector.

"There can be no doubt that over the years, the banana industry has experienced rapid technological change... However if we are to survive in a competitive situation, we need to modernise and adopt new technology at even more rapid pace," St. Lucia's Agriculture Minister Ira D'Auvergne said.

D'Auvergne was addressing a week-long workshop on technological modernisation of the banana industry in the Caribbean, organised by the Inter-American Institute for Co-operation on Agriculture (IICA), the Windward Islands Banana Growers Association (Winban), and the St. Lucia Government.

The workshop is being attended by officials from Jamaica, Barbados, Guyana, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, Dominica, Suriname, Belize, host country St. Lucia and a number of regional and international aid agencies.

D'Auvergne said modernisation of the region's agriculture was essential in the face of growing international competition.

"By modernisation in agriculture, I mean increasing the capacity of farms and or farm-related enterprises to achieve self reliance, to increase production and income and to grow in number under competitive conditions," he said.

"The competitiveness of the banana industry on the international market must be one of the main concerns underlying research and development," he added.

Uncertainty over the future of Caribbean bananas stems from moves to end their preferential access to the main European export market and institute a free trade regime which mean competitition from more efficient Latin American producers.

D'Auvergne urged Winban - the Windward Islands Banana Growers Association - and other organisations involved in the industry to devise alternative production methods that are less labour intensive.

He noted current levels of productivity in the industry are cause for concern, particularly labour productivity.

He called for mechanisation of certain aspects of banana cultivation, adding "it is one step along the road to a united Caribbean response to the new international situation facing the banana industry".

"In this context we will all survive or perish together," he added.

D'Auvergne said even if the region were to receive continued protection on the international market, "it is clear that whatever concessions are extended will not be indefinite".

Trinidad and Tobago

WASA Workers Vote To Continue Protest Action

FL0212232992 Bridgetown CANA in English 2027 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Dec 2, CANA—Workers employed by Trinidad and Tobago's state-owned Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) voted Wednesday to continue protest action, minutes after hearing from their union that the government had not met their pay demand.

The 3,000-odd WASA workers are each demanding $4,000 (one TT dollar = U.S. 23.5 cents) from the government, representing arrears owed to them as a result of the suspension in 1987 of Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) and other increments. The government had offered to pay each worker $2,800.

Public Services Association (PSA) president Dr. Kenrick Rennie told the workers, who were picketing the office of the utility minister Morris Marshall, that cabinet had voted against meeting their demand.

"His (Marshall's) position remains the same. What we have to determine is what do we do," Rennie told the workers. "Do we say ... to hell with the offer that he has made and continue our struggle ...," he asked, to which the workers gave a resounding vote of approval. Rennie added: "Is that the decision of everyone—to say to hell with what he is offering and continue with our struggle ... is that the decision of everyone?" A louder shout of approval emerged.

The workers who started their protest against WASA two weeks ago and increased their action over the weekend, are expected to deepen their protest over the next few days. As a result of the industrial action, several areas in Trinidad are without water and the situation is expected to worsen.

Postal Workers Begin Two-Day 'Sick-Out'

FL0112020992 Bridgetown CANA in English 2116 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Nov 30, CANA—Over-the-counter postal workers in Trinidad and Tobago stayed away from their jobs on Monday at the start of a two-day sick-out. Sandra Toppin, the assistant secretary at the Public Services Association (PSA), said a substantial number of workers stayed away from work, causing a closure of post offices throughout the country. It was not clear how many of the 67 post offices stayed closed.

The workers are protesting the government's slow pace at appointing temporary workers with eighteen and more years' experience on a permanent basis.

While there was no sale of stamps, money order and postal orders at the affected post offices, postmen were delivering mail as normal. Kenneth Beharry, the deputy postmaster general, said that the postmen were under another union.

87 Persons Arrested in Nuevo Laredo Riots

PA0212172392 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Dozens of persons were arrested on 30 November by the federal police after riots in Nuevo Laredo. Antonio Garcia Torres, deputy justice prosecutor of the nation's northern region, explained the status of the investigations and the situation of the persons who were detained. Here is what Garcia said:

[Being recording] [Garcia Torres] A total of 87 persons arrested during the disturbances were brought to this office by different police authorities. Of these 87 persons, 34 are minors. After these minors issued their statements to the federal authorities, they were turned over to the juvenile courts for processing. Of the other remaining 53 individuals, 40 have given their statements and we are currently concluding the investigation of the others. Once this had been concluded, we will assess their accusations against each other or other persons. As a result of our investigations, we have been able to identify five people as the leaders who are responsible for this movement and for the actions that unleashed criminal conduct. These persons are Pedro Perez Ibarra, Jorge Emilio Conde Cantu, Leopolod Ramirez Garcia, Edmundo Patonis Serrano, and Salomon Gonzalez Posada.

On 30 November, we requested the second district judge for search warrants for certain addresses that were obtained during the investigation. The goal was to bring these individuals here to present their statements and to determine their role in the incidents. Seven homes were searched in the city. In one of the homes, we found Salomon Gonzalez Posada who claims he is a leader of the movement and has admitted his participation in the demonstration. Gonzalez also admitted he was one of the persons who—after the demonstration in the public plaza near these offices—encouraged the people to go to the bridge where all the damage occurred. Leopold Ramirez Garcia was also identified in these searches. It appears Garcia is the organizer of these incidents and we are looking for him.

[Unidentified reporter] What are the charges?

[Garcia] The investigations have revealed fire damage to property, personal attacks on the roads, interruption of traffic on two international bridges, gang activity, and we are also investigating if there were any injured persons. We have received complaints from the Treasury Secretariat regarding the damage inflicted on their computer system, furniture, and documents—among which are fiscal debt documents used for collection. [end recording]

Salinas, German President Discuss Bilateral Issues

AU2711113892 Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE in German 25 Nov 92 p 6

["Stg" report: "Far-Reaching Agreement Between Weizsaecker and Salinas"]

[Text] Mexico City, 24 November—The meeting between President Richard von Weizsaecker and Mexican President Salinas de Gotari lasted for over an hour. After the talk, the two statesmen spoke of "far-reaching agreement" on political and economic issues. In the speeches they delivered during a banquet, both of them not only stressed the good relations between Germany and Mexico but also hinted at what they expect from each other. Salinas stated that Germany will ensure in the EC that "Europe will not become a trade fortress, but that it will continue to be a dynamic element in world trade." He mentioned Mexico's efforts to "diversify" its relations despite the North American Free Trade Agreement concluded with (NAFTA) with the United States and Canada, and he spoke of Germany's special role as one of Mexico's most important trade partners. Weizsaecker pointed out that the "dynamic and constructive policy of opening up in all directions" has made Mexico a country that has an "exemplary function" in Latin America. Mexico and Germany, which belong to different economic zones, must ensure that the two zones do not isolate themselves, but that they support free world trade. Referring to the situation in Germany, Weizsaecker explained that his country has accepted more refugees than all the other European countries together. This has caused considerable problems, but, in spite of that, the "overwhelming majority of Germans" condemn the xenophobia that is being fanned by "extremists." On Tuesday [24 November] Weizsaecker and Salinas met again. President Weizsaecker also wanted to meet the winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature, Octavio Paz.

Foreign Minister Kinkel and the Mexican Foreign Minister Solana Morales have started political talks that will last until Wednesday [25 November]. During their first meeting, they mainly discussed questions concerning the intensification of bilateral economic relations. After the meeting, Kinkel stated that he welcomed the establishment of NAFTA during the talk, but that he also expressed the hope that this will not lead to investment barriers for Germany in Mexico, and that the "formation of blocks" that would impede world trade will not take place. To improve relations with Mexico, the creation of a cooperation and double taxation agreement are planned. In addition, technical cooperation is to be increased.

Solana pointed out that the future U.S. President Clinton wants to continue the rapprochement with Mexico, initiated by President Bush, and that NAFTA will come into force in 1994 at the latest. Mexico is also interested in concluding an association agreement with

the EC, because it wants to expand its trade relations with the Community. According to Kinkel, the two foreign ministers also discussed the situation of the United Nations. Mexico advocates a stronger role for the world organization. It considers a reform necessary but thinks that it would be "too early" to tackle it at this point. If a reform should take place, Mexico insists on a permanent seat in the UN Security Council. Kinkel "took note" of that. He stated that for Germany a permanent seat in the UN Security council is "not a priority." In addition, Germany by no means wants to urge a reform of the United Nations.

Kinkel stressed that both Mexico and Germany endorse a "worldwide policy of opening up markets" and will continue to struggle for a positive conclusion of the GATT talks. He explained the "French problems" to the Mexican side in this respect. In addition, human rights issues and the protection of minorities were discussed. The German foreign minister emphasized that he mentioned some "specific cases of human rights violations" in Mexico. Yet he also described the situation in Germany in an "open and plain way." Solana stated that he understands the difficulties that result from unification.

Government-EEC Commission Discusses Trade Issues

PA0212171992 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] A Mexico-EEC Bilateral Commission is currently meeting in Mexico City. During the meeting, it is being said that in the last decade, EEC investments in Mexico have grown more than investments by Japan or the United States.

Deputy Foreign Relations Secretary Javier Barros Valeros inaugurated the Mexican-EEC Bilateral Commission sessions.

[Begin Barros Valeros recording] It is clear that for Mexico, Europe represents its greatest opportunity to achieve indispensable economic and political equilibrium. Without any doubt, Europe constitutes a strategic area in our plans to diversify our relations with other countries. [end recording]

Mr. Barros Valeros highlighted the growth of EEC investment in Mexico during the past 10 years.

[Begin Barros Valeros recording] Accumulated investments originating from the EEC grew by 440 percent, while investments from the United States grew by 270 percent, and Japanese investments grew by 206 percent. [end recording]

Mr. Juan Prat, EEC official in charge of North-South relations referred to the benefits the framework agreement will bring to Mexico and to the EEC.

[Begin Prat recording] After all Mexico, along with Brazil, is the Latin American country with which the EEC maintains the closest commercial relations. [end recording]

He also referred to Mexico's most pressing needs:

[Begin Prat recording] The promotion of innovative production, technology transfer, training programs, commercial promotion, the identification of new markets, increase in exports, [break in reception]. [end recording]

El Salvador

FMLN Communique Confirms Continued Demobilization

PA0212192392 San Salvador Radio Venceremos Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Report by Bienvenido Otto Salamanca]

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, announced it has completed the demobilization of its penultimate group of fighters after resolving some pending points in the peace process. A communique issued by the FMLN General Command reports they will continue the demobilization and disarming process of their armed men. This process was suspended last week. The FMLN had conditioned disarmament to a series of reforms to the law regulating the transfer of land in the former conflict areas and to the government's delivery of a list to the United Nations on Army purging measures. The communique indicates the FMLN decided to renew the demobilization of its forces after it felt some of the pending commitments had been resolved or rejected from the government peace accords signed in January 1992 in Mexico.

Agreements have been reached to improve the legal guarantees that prevent the eviction of those who benefited from the land transfer agreement, the communique reported. The FMLN also reported the National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace, in charge of overseeing agreement compliance, prepared a draft bill to create a protection fund for those injured and crippled in the war. The communique added international cooperation has provided funds to finance the work and aptitude courses for former FMLN fighters who hope to join the National Academy of Public Security.

FMLN Begins Destoying Arms in Concentration Sites

PA0312024092 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1827 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Report by Nery Mabel Reyes]

[Text] As established in the peace agreements signed by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation, FMLN, and government representatives in Mexico, the FMLN started to destroy its weapons in an official act which ended a few minutes ago. The event was attended by UN Observers for El Salvador, Onusal, members and several FMLN leaders. FMLN Commander Leonel Gonzalez inaugurated the symbolic event where a total of 50 weapons were destroyed. The following is part of Commander Gonzalez' speech:

[Begin Gonzalez recording] On this day, we start the destruction of our weapons at the 15 concentration sites. This act shows that, just as we agreed and promised, all of us, all our contingents of combatant leaders, are going to resume our struggle in the different sectors of civilian life. We meet this struggle with firmness, conviction, and purpose. Just as we decided to take up weapons to topple the dictatorship and change this country 12 years ago, now, without any hesitancy, we start to comply with our promise to destroy our weapons because we are convinced that the struggle in this country has not ended, that the FMLN will continue to be a powerful people's force in civilian life.

It is very important that I highlight the symbolic manner in which FMLN student leaders have given the FMLN banner to the demobilized combatants. Why? Because our combatants are convinced that the struggle to change the country must continue. Our action on this day, I believe, carries a great message not only to the nation but to the international community. [end recording]

This was part of Leonel Gonzalez's speech at the (El Faisnal) concentration site, approximately 40 km to the north of San Salvador. As we said at the start, Gonzalez presided over the symbolic event where the FMLN started the destruction of its armament in the presence of Onusal members. The 50 weapons were destroyed with a special fusion welding machine. In his speech, Commander Gonzalez highlighted that the peace agreements had prompted society's demilitarization and respect for human rights. He also made reference to the changes in the electoral law as well as in the judicial sector.

Deputy Chief of Staff Comments

PA0312035392 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] General Mauricio Ernesto Vargas, deputy chief of staff, has said the demobilization and the first phase of the destruction of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] weapons scheduled in a few hours reflects the government's fulfillment of the agreements. This is so, he noted, as the former rebels had conditioned the implementation of those measures on President Cristiani's government fulfilling the agreements. Here is what Gen. Vargas said:

[Begin Vargas recording] The government's fulfillment is clearly seen at this point. I do not believe they have any other choice unless they come up with some other pretext not foreseen in the end of the armed conflict phase. The UN secretary general's satisfaction with the measures taken give the impression that the FMLN has run out of cards to play. The only thing left would be their outright noncompliance, their irresponsible.... [end recording].

As far as the administrative measures taken within the Armed Forces by President Cristiani, Gen. Vargas confirmed that they will be obeyed as follows:

[Begin Vargas recording, in progress] ....in an orderly fashion and with serenity. We have always stated that there is support for the nation's constitutional president, who is the commander in chief of the Armed Forces. The president has been stating all along that this is a process

that involves a great deal of activity, of honesty, and of responsibility. There is certainly trust, so we will wait and see what those administrative decisions are when the are made public. [end recording]

The high ranking military officer ruled out a coup d'etat, assuring that this could only be conceived in the minds of conspirators who attempt to torpedo the peace process.

'Elite' Battalion To Demobilize

PA0312033092 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] According to the new agreement implementation schedule, eight days after the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front begins destroying its weapons, the Armed Forces will demobilize the elite Atlacatl Battalion.

Ochoa Perez: Purge 'Attempt' To Destroy Army

PA0212225592 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 1400 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Nationalist Republican Alliance Deputy Sigifredo Ochoa Perez has stated that the purge of the Armed Forces is only an attempt to destroy the military institutions because the report that recommends such an action is based on partial information. Ochoa also said he was against extending the UN Observers for El Salvador's mandate in the country.

Official Denies Prison Fugitive Drug Connection

PA0212172092 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Report by Salvador Abarca]

[Text] Prison System Director Rodolgo Garay Pineda denied that the 27 prison escapees from Mariona were members of a drug trafficking network, as was initially stated following the attack on the prison. On 27 November, strongly armed individuals attacked La Esperanza jail in Mariona [name as received], killing one inmate, wounding 11, and injuring two guards. The attack allowed 27 inmates to escape. It was first believed that they had links to drug trafficking. This was denied on 30 November by the prison system director, who said most of the escaped inmates were serving time for homicide and robbery.

[Begin Garay recording] After checking prison records, we are able to state that no inmates with drug trafficking links escaped. Many of them we have to admit—40 percent according to statistics— were under arrest for homicide and murder, the rest for theft or robbery. This was a brief situation that permitted only those in the immediate area to escape. [end recording]

Immediately following the attack, officials and officers blamed the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN]. Although the FMLN denied it, Garay Pineda stated that the attack was similar to previous attacks.

[Begin Garay recording] We cannot really say who carried out the attack, but we can say that it is similar to previous FMLN attacks. This does not necessarily mean it was them, but there is a great similarity in the way the attack was carried out and the weapons strategy used. [end recording]

The prison system director said it is not known whether the inmate who perished while attempting to escape was shot by guards or by the individuals who attacked the jail. The inmates who were recaptured will receive an added sentence for violent escape, as stipulated by the penal code.

Nicaragua

Chamorro 'Pleased' With Resumption of U.S. Aid

PA0312031292 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0219 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] Managua, 2 Dec (NOTIMEX)—Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro said on 2 December that she is pleased about the lifting of restrictions on $54 million, which is part of the financial aid package the U.S. Government has been withholding since May.

After learning of President George Bush's decision to lift the restrictions on the U.S. aid for that Central American nation, President Chamorro said, "I never lost hope or faith in God."

"It is a success for the Nicaraguan people," the leader added. She heard the news during a tour of an exhibit marking the second meeting of the Nicaraguan Government with the donor countries that will conclude on 3 December.

According to Erwin Kruger, minister of foreign cooperation, the disbursement will be formalized in the next few days, and the rest of the package—another $50 million—could arrive in about two months.

The president's cabinet received with excitement the news of this political victory for Chamorro.

Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo announced that the Nicaraguan Embassy in Washington received a communique from Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger that said the restrictions on the U.S. aid package had been lifted.

Almicar Navarro, a leader of the National Union of Farmers and Cattlemen (UNAG), called on the Chamorro government to "distribute the funds in the most democratic way possible," mainly to the productive sectors.

A broadened credit plan was implemented recently for rural production areas to promote agricultural exports, such as coffee and livestock.

"We hope the disbursement of the U.S. financial aid will release long-term financing for livestock and coffee production," he said.

Minister Lacayo on U.S. Aid

PA0312140492 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Report on news conference by Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo with unidentified reporters; date and place not given; monitored in progress—recorded]

[Excerpt] ...disbursement of $54 million immediately. This constitutes a victory for the government of Mrs. Violeta Chamorro. Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo has said besides this constituting a victory for the government of Mrs. Violeta Chamorro, this is also the result of the negotiation and dialogue promoted by this government, because it started holding talks and will finish holding talks to achieve peace and the reconciliation of all Nicaraguans.

Although it has not yet been determined when the funds will be disbursed, the Nicaraguan Government will have access to $116 million in complementary funds, which had been blocked by the U.S. Congress, U.S. Government officials told our Ambassador to Washington Dr. Ernesto Palacios.

[Begin Lacayo recording] Thanks to the efforts made by the Nicaraguan Government with the international community [words indistinct] to benefit our country, Acting U.S. Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleberger advised the Nicaraguan ambassador to Washington that the U.S. Government authorized the immediate disbursement of $54 million of a $100 million package that has been frozen since late May. He added it is very possible the remainder could be disbursed before the end of the Bush administration.

Our ambassador was advised to take the necessary steps on 4 December to ensure the $54 million will in fact come to the country in the next few days. This definitely constitutes excellent news for Nicaragua, our government, and all Nicaraguans involved in this process of peace, reconciliation, democracy, and economic progress. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Russian Foreign Ministry on Soviet Weapons Sale

PA0212232592 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 28 Nov 92 pp 1, 12

[Report by Mijail Baklanov, LA PRENSA correspondent in Moscow]

[Text] Moscow, November—Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Sergey Yastrzembskiy [name as published] stated in Moscow that "we do not consider Nicaragua free from any obligations". Mr. Yastrzembskiy was commenting on recent statements by Colonel Ricardo Wheelock to BARRICADA newspaper with respect to the EPS [Sandinist People's Army] feeling "exempted from any obligation" toward Russia as a result of the Soviet-made weapons.

When consulted by this correspondent with respect to the issue, Mr. Yastrzembskiy pointed out that Russia considers the agreements contracted between the Soviet Union and the Sandinist government as still binding on Nicaragua. "Therefore, we hope the Nicaraguan counterpart would abstain from selling the Soviet made weapons", Yastrzembskiy said. "In this way, we could avoid unfortunate situations". He also disclosed that the aforementioned statements were made known to a Nicaraguan delegation headed by Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Jose Pallais Arana who was in Moscow during the month of November. The Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman added that "as far as I know, we have not yet received any official reply from the Nicaraguan Government."

A Foreign Ministry communique issued after the Nicaraguan delegation's visit expressed Russia's concern over the sale of the Soviet-made weapons to "third countries". The communique states that Moscow considers this decision by Nicaragua to be contrary to bilateral agreements currently in effect, and it calls for previous consent from the Russian counterpart before such action is taken.

In commenting on the document, an unofficial Foreign Ministry source stated that "as relates to diplomatic language, it is a very strong pronouncement. It could not have been any clearer."

An official assigned to the Russian Foreign Trade Ministry who wished to remain anonymous disclosed to this correspondent that from a technical point of view, it is incomprehensible how on the one hand, the Nicaraguan Government is telling Moscow that it is not in any condition to repay the debt accumulated during the Sandinist administration, and on the other, the Nicaraguan defense minister [Violeta Barrios de Chamorro] is selling the Soviet-made weapons and earning millions of dollars for the institution. Far from trying to get involved in Nicaraguan internal affairs, the Russian Foreign Trade Ministry official pointed out "we consider that this is a very irregular situation that demands an immediate clarification."

On the other hand, the weapons sale scandal should be analyzed from the perspective of the internal political situation currently taking place in Russia. While the opposition is attacking the Foreign Ministry as well as the Foreign Trade Ministry for its inability to collect debt owed by friends of the former Soviet Union, we have the contradiction that one of the debtor nations is getting rich by selling off donations from Moscow. It is no longer a technical issue since it affects the image of Russia's democratic authorities, and precisely at a time when the internal political situation is so serious.

However, the scandal's most damaging effects may be to Russia's image in the world. The fact that a prominent

representative of the Nicaraguan Armed Forces considers that his institution is "free of any obligations" with Moscow, could be interpreted as doubting that Russia is the Soviet Union's legitimate successor. It has taken the Russian Government enormous sacrifice to obtain international recognition, precisely as successor to the former USSR, even before the United Nations. Today, no one here would be willing to tolerate any doubts about this issue, regardless of from where it may come.

The official Foreign Ministry communique indicated that the Kremlin is much less interested in getting involved in an "affair" that "is charged with potential danger of aggravating the situation in the Latin American region". First of all, at this time Russia is outlining a new mutual understanding policy toward the major Latin American countries. Second, but not in order of importance, the issue affects Russia's relations with the United States. Boris Yeltsin is aware that a great part of these relations will depend on Russia's position in the world during the forthcoming weeks. Apparently the new administration of President-elect Bill Clinton has not yet determined its policy toward Russia. In this respect, the Kremlin is interested in not sending any false signals to the White House.

I imagine that these were the reasons why the Russian Foreign Ministry expressed "hopes that the Nicaraguan counterpart will undertake the necessary steps to solve this issue, by strictly abiding by bilateral agreements", the communique issued in this capital city points out.

Sugarmills, Others Join Managua INE Strike

PA0212171892 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 30 Nov pp 1, 16

[Text] Lucio Jimenez, coordinator of the National Workers Front [FNT], has announced that a wave of protests beginning 30 November could paralyze the country in the coming hours if the government does not agree to negotiate the issues of "property, health demands, and unemployment."

The strike began in the administrative offices of the Nicaraguan Institute of Energy [INE] on 27 November, without affecting the supply of electricity, and could extend to the sugar mills. Customs operations may come to a standstill, which would result in closing the border, Jimenez explained.

Workers at the San Antonio Sugar Mill in Chichigalpa and German Pomares Sugar Mill in El Viejo, which are operating at their full capacity because of the recent sugar harvest, will join the strike on the morning of 30 November, according to Jimenez.

The public transportation sector will be the next one to join the strike, according to measures taken by the FNT leadership.

Jimenez emphasized that "whatever happens from now on is the government's responsibility because it has no interest in negotiating, and our goal is to solve the issues of property, health, unemployment, and hunger as soon as possible."

It is estimated that there are more than 800,000 unemployed. The government acknowledges that 56 percent are unemployed or underemployed.

Commander Alvaro Guzman, deputy chief of the National Police, said he had no comments on an alleged police plan to stop the national strike announced for 30 November.

Guzman told a BARRICADA reporter: "I cannot tell you anything." He did admit, however, that "the Presidency and the Government Ministry" have requested the deployment of Army troops in strategic centers of production and reinforced police units in streets of the capital.

Army troops in combat gear occupied the electricity plant 140 km northeast of Managua to prevent a possible strike that could leave part of the country without electricity.

At the Managua power plant, soldiers in combat gear observed the INE workers through the screens of the building.

Members of the Sandinist People's Army and the National Police have cordoned off the area around the capital since the FNT protest began on 25 November.

The national wave of protests has been announced only four days before a conference of Nicaragua's donor countries begins. Jimenez said the national strike will continue to grow until the entire country is paralyzed, if the government does not agree to negotiate.

"They were the ones to leave the negotiation table hastily because I think they want to gain time with regard to the property issue," Jimenez stated in response to a remark by Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo that negotiations continue normally.

Carlos Lopez, leader of the INE workers federation, said the indefinite strike will continue at all administrative offices, except for the cashier's office, which will continue to assist INE customers.

The INE strike has occurred just as Minister Emilio Rappaccioli has proposed a 20 percent discount for customers who pay their electricity bills in full before 23 December.

Army, Police Move Against Demonstrations, Protests

PA0212172292 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] The government has stepped up the mobilization of combined forces from the police and the Sandinist People's Army to Granada, Masaya, and Chinandega Departments.

In Managua, four workers of the (Procon Enterprise) were arrested by Managua policemen during their participation in protests in the seventh southern sector on 1 December.

Leaders of the National Workers Front, FNT, charged that on this occasion police committed abuses when they beat up and kicked workers. Commander Fernando Caldera, police general director, was informed of all this.

Jorge Isaac Cruz Moreno, Candelario Canales of (Procon), Ramon Machado, leader of the construction sector; and Jose Antonio Abea Ortiz of the Polar Ice Company were arrested by the Managua Police.

In El Empalme de Tipitapa, workers of Plywood Incorporated, Metasa [not further identified], and other enterprises blocked the road to Masaya, Managua, and El Empalme de San Benito. Meanwhile, the FNT announced that the government called them to a meeting on the afternoon of 1 December at the Presidential House.

FNT Leader Ronaldo Membreno has said they will again propose to government ministers that they stop the plan for the privatization of the Nicaraguan Institute of Energy, Nicaraguan Aqueducts and Sewage Institute, and Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Services Institute. They will also demand salary hikes and job stability for the workers.

Furthermore, the workers of the Gaspar Garcia La Diana Hospital of Rivas joined their sector's strike on 1 December. Appointments have been canceled and only emergency cases will be attended to, said the union leaders of the Gaspar Garcia La Diana Hospital of Rivas.

Former Contras Occupy Radio Station, Support Strike

PA0312022192 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0031 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Managua, 2 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—A group of former Nicaraguan "contras," who fought the previous Sandinist regime, occupied a Sandinist radio station temporarily on 2 December, and joined the workers who are protesting and demanding wage hikes and other social benefits from the government.

The former "contras" took the Sandinist "Radio Ya" station, from where one of the "contra" leaders said they backed "the just demands" of the workers, who started strikes at hospitals, sugar mills, and other government offices last week.

On 2 December, the Sandinist unions called the Nicaraguans "to take to the streets" after the talks with the government on an agreement on their political, social, and labor demands failed.

"We express our solidarity with the workers because we too have been harmed" by the economic adjustment program implemented by Violeta Chamorro's government, a former "contra" leader stated. He also demanded that the government "renew talks" with the Sandinist workers to "keep the promises" made to the "contra" members for their demobilization in April 1990.

President Chamorro called on union leaders "not to call workers to strike because the fatherland needs unity and work." "I ask the little hot heads to work together with us to have peace and tranquility" in this country, the Nicaraguan president said in brief statements to the media. [passage omitted]

Article Views Effect of Clinton Election

PA0212223892 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 30 Nov 92 p 18

[Article by Jose M. Zelaya: "Clinton: Perspectives for Nicaragua"]

[Text] The good relations between the United States and Nicaragua involve a two-way street. Certain conditions are required in the two countries to make them possible. Most Nicaraguan political sectors, including anti-U.S. ones, think the election of Bill Clinton offers an opportunity to establish the good relations that were expected after the defeat in the elections of the party that had held power in 1990. It is expected that good relations will produce material aid for our development.

We should open our eyes. That aid will depend on U.S. possibilities in a regional and global context. The United States has its own problems as a country and specific interests as a world power. This would apply to any new power.

The standard of living of U.S. citizens must not further deteriorate and violence in its major cities must not further grow. U.S. education has deteriorated substantially. The education system, however, should develop a society with moral values that is in tune with the 21st century and a work force capable of competing in the world economy. Indebtedness, which is the product of governments, banks, and credit cards, cannot continue to grow. This situation should be adapted to the current U.S. role as the sole military superpower that is facing a difficult economic situation.

It is said war is won by the economy that advances the most during the peace time preceding it. In the struggle for supremacy each global economy tries to win at the

lowest cost possible for its people. The current world recession has left the developing world as a squeezed orange and developed countries will try to advance their own economies by further squeezing this same orange.

This means the United States and all developed countries where aid originates will reorganize their priorities. Thus, their unilateral aid for foreign countries will depend even more on their global interests and less on "traditional friendship ties." Developed countries claim aid to poor countries takes into account the needs of the latter. The global plans of developed countries, however, prompt them to help countries that are more useful to them rather than those that need it most.

The collapse of the USSR, the consequences of which are only now becoming apparent, marked the beginning of a dangerous era of uncertainty. Transformations of such magnitude do not come without cost. Strong religious fanaticism had simply remained dormant. Nationalism and racial intolerance are filling the void left by the political downfall of communism. Southern Europe and the Middle East are the new theater of old human sufferings. Millions of human beings living around that devil's furnace have no other future than ignorance, hunger, and plague.

The impoverishment of a majority in Latin America is overwhelming. Institutional development alone separates us from some more backward African and Asian nations. It was not the geophagous capitalist who displaced our peasants toward the cities but the cost of growing crops, lack of basic services, and insecurity around people and property. The overpopulation, underemployment, and "bargains" of our low-income neighborhoods look more promising than our countryside. This involves the same problem of immigration from the south, which is impoverished and insecure, toward the north, which is insecure but promising. These are realities with which we have had no prior experience. If we do not wish to repeat old mistakes, such as militarism, we must make a serious and sustained effort to find new solutions to face these challenges.

Nicaragua's reality is framed within this situation. A quarter century of armed struggled has deformed three generations, increased violence, and further undermined Nicaraguan technology. Eighty percent of our population lives under the Latin American poverty line. Politics and politicians have become professional but demonstrate a disturbing dependence on foreign financial aid. Leaders or organizations receiving no foreign aid are rare. Corruption, which used to be characteristic of the government, reigns at all levels now. Political groups are struggling day after day to maintain and broaden their power quotz in daily administrative chores without allowing the government to rule for the period mandated by the law. Destabilization is a goal of the domestic political struggle. Thus, institutional instability is more serious than social instability and a large part of our political and economic vulnerability is created by our own leaders.

The problem of bilateral relations with the United States—not only with the government of President Clinton—should be placed within this framework. The dynamism and intensity of U.S. societal problems and our importance in the regional structure place us on a very secondary level among the developed countries' foreign aid priorities. We must admit it could be more important for the United States and Europe, for example, to maintain the progress achieved in Costa Rica than to force countries, which are intent on destroying each other, to develop. After all, a country that is achieving progress makes a better customer.

The struggle for democracy in Nicaragua left us good things. Public power should not become an easy path to becoming rich as was the case in World War II and the post-war period. Let us remember what happened to the Germans and Japanese. Politics should again become a serious and patriotic concern. It should shed the mercenary nature it acquired during the Cold War. These 30 years should be no exception. [as published]

In 1990 we held exemplary elections and a government emerged from the people's silent choice. Good and bad people, saints and sinners voted in those elections. We did so with confidence in our ability to forge ahead on the democratic path. This is a rare example that should fill us with pride.

Let us give the people a break by respecting their decision. Nobody will do for us what we will not do for ourselves. The problem is not to obtain more international economic aid. The problem is that this aid, regardless of how small it might be, reach the people and that—even without it—we should move forward as intelligent citizens through intelligent work and personal savings. Let us focus more on developing our institutions and less on obtaining international aid that, within the current institutional framework, would only serve to increase the corruption that is affecting all levels and structures of our society. Respectful relations with other world governments will actually depend on the respect we show ourselves.

Panama

Modesco Clashes With Colon Police, Burns Vehicles

PA0212205292 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Report by Axel Rivera in Colon City, Colon Province]

[Text] Violent clashes took place this morning between the police, riot control units, and members of the Movement of the Colon Province Unemployed [Modesco], who are protesting the possible deportation to Colombia of Luis Ladeutt, one of the group's leaders.

The main protest points were near the city's cathedral and the governor's office, where two official vehicles

were set on fire. In addition, there were disturbances outside the San Jose Church, where a car belonging to the Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification was also set on fire.

Police sources reported that the disturbances are being caused by about 100 people. They added that several arrests have been made, but did not specify the number.

Modesco leaders told Telemetro that Ladeutt's deportation stems from the political interests of Colon Province authorities, who want to take one of the movement's leaders out of circulation.

Right now the streets of Colon are continuously patrolled by the police and by the Police Investigation and Information Department, to control any protest attempts. Further clashes on the afternoon of 2 December between the police and Modesco cannot be ruled out.

Chiriqui Attorney on Drug Commission Sessions

PA0212191492 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 1 Dec 92 p 67

[Text] With respect to the National Assembly Drug Affairs Committee sessions that took place recently in David, the undersigned, District Attorney Emilio De Leon Lokee, out of consideration for the community, hereby declares:

1. All questions posed by the Drug Committee were answered exhaustively and concrete, documented evidence was provided.

2. It was clearly established that we have not granted freedom to any drug trafficker, nor have we called off any operation whatsoever against drug traffickers.

3. We regret that at this time, when my detractors have been unmasked as liars, slanderous attacks are now being directed at my family, such as the attacks against my mother, Mrs. Nelva Lokee De Leon, who currently occupies the position of president of the Chiriqui Province Chinese Community.

4. I hereby announce that I have never visited the offices of Immigration Director Antonio Dominguez. I am also not acquainted with Mr. Raul Adames, Panamanican counsular officer in Hong Kong, who despite the fact that he bears the same surname, is not a blood relative of my wife, Mrs. Marisabel Adames de De Leon.

5. I am unaware of what interests may have motivated the slanderous charges of "patron of illegal Chinese aliens" that have been made against me, when the person who made the remarks contradicted himself by refuting the Judicial Technical Police director and stating that he gets involved in controversies that only serve to harm the justice system.

6. I hereby publily announce that I have revealed documents to the Drug Committee that deny any knowledge of or involvement in any irregularities or charges made against the undersigned. Said documents were issued by well known business enterprises such as the Chiriqui Chamber of Commerce, Industries, and Agriculture; the Panamanian Association of Business Executives, Chiriqui Chapter; the Panamanian Banana Growers Association; the Republic of Panama Federation of Night Club and Saloon Owners, Chiriqui Chapter; the Chiriqui Retail Business Association; the National Association of Furniture and Credit Institutions; and the Registered Chartered Accountants Association of Panama, Chiriqui Chapter. In addition, documents were also issued by several Chiriqui legislators, such as Camilo Brenes, Librado Montenegro, Jose Domingo Torres, Ramon Aizpurua, Ricardo Perez Colman, Alexis Ayala, Erick Fidel Santamaria, Ernesto Giron, and Gustavo Guillen.

7. I appreciate the support and backing received from my fellow provincial constituents, which prompts me to continue working even more arduously toward the improvement of justice in our country.

[Issued] David, 28 November 1992
[Signed] Yours faithfully,
Emilio De Leon Lokee
First Higher Court District Attorney.

Sources Note 'Increased' Political Espionage

PA0312000892 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 1 Dec 92 p A1

[Article by James Aparicio and Euclides Corro]

[Text] High ranking government sources have reported that in the past two weeks political espionage and phone tapping of opposition leaders, government officials, union leaders, diplomats, and businessmen, has increased throughout the country. The sources have involved former soldiers, political parties, the police, the security organizations, and the U.S. DEA, in these activities.

The charge was made one week after LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA reported that the Judicial Technical Police created a political espionage unit headed by Captain Maximo Pinzon. This report was later confirmed by Attorney General Rogelio Cruz.

Phone tapping became quite popular in March 1991 when President Guillermo Endara charged that his conversations were being recorded and involved his ally at that time and now in opposition Christian Democratic Party [PDC] allegedly supported by former officers opposed to General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

The source added that former soldiers who supported Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega and former soldiers linked to the opposition PDC are involved in this apparent war of "snoopers."

Likewise, the illegal activity is carried out by the U.S. Southern Command's 470th Military Intelligence Brigade,

the Council for Public Security and National Defense headed by Menalco Solis, the DEA, the Attorney General's Office, and private detective agencies.

An investigation done by LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA, during which the names of officers and former officers involved in these activities were discovered, showed that one of the groups operates computer equipment seized from U.S. agent Kurt Muse by the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] in 1989.

Operations include follow-up surveillance and maintaining files on political, church, and union figures and on Attorney General's Office and government officials in general, similar to those kept by the intelligence and counterintelligence services of the FDP or G-2 Intelligence.

The so-called "Menalco group", which operates a commando unit known as the Counterterrorism Force (FCT), used equipment seized from the National Telecommunications Institute [Intel] after the 20 December U.S. intervention, and from the FDP Operations Center in Amador.

It was also reported that important government officials and attorneys record their telephone conversations. Also, detective agencies render their services in adultery cases to husbands or wives.

Regarding the illegal investigations carried out by the Judicial Technical Police [PTJ] outside their field of criminal competence, it was learned that these operations are carried out against the opposition Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), various human rights committees, associations of unemployed persons, organizations created as a result of the U.S. intervention, the Movement of the Colon Province Unemployed (Modesco), and the Committee for the Salvation of Baru, in Chirqui Province.

UPEB Rejects EC Representative's Proposal

PA0112154792 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 30 Nov 92 p a2

[Statement issued by the Union of Banana Exporting Countries, UPEB, Executive Board; place and date not given]

[Text] The Union of Banana Exporting Countries (UPEB) Executive Board rejects the proposal presented by EC representative Abel Matutes and makes the following comments:

1. We express our strongest rejection of any banana import system that is not based on the exclusive application of tariff rights and on full respect for the Uruguay Round commitments and GATT international trade obligations.

2. The proposal presented by EC representative Matutes, besides being incredibly inappropriate, merits our repudiation as it seems to be an attempt to buy our undoubtable competitiveness and efficiency in the banana field with a "donation." The Latin American banana-exporting countries do not need a "donation" to diversify our crop. The threat that looms over this product does not respond to market laws, but to a new outbreak of protectionism and discriminatory policies of several EC countries.

3. Once again, Mr. Abel Matutes tells us that what is good for him is necessarily going to have to be good for our countries. In this respect, Latin America would view as positive for the EC to abandon its repetitive protectionist policies and to allow a more equitable trade opening, not only for bananas, but for all our agricultural exports.

4. Mr. Matutes' proposal is a great deal. Currently the tariff rights applied to bananas from Latin America yields approximately $150 million a year in revenues to the EC. The amount will increase to $300 million a year when Germany joins in 1993. The proposal attempts to give UPEB countries, plus Ecuador, Bolivia, El Salvador, and Peru (which are not exporters of the fruit) $74 million in "donations." This would leave the EC with a positive balance of $225 million. A very good deal indeed.

5. Instead, our countries feel the $300 million should be channeled as direct aid to diversify the crop in Guadaloupe, Martinique, Canary Islands, Madeira, and Crete; countries showing inefficiency in the production of bananas. Another portion of those resources should be used to improve competitiveness and introduce structural changes in the production of bananas in the Antilles and Africa.

Police Director Respects Constitutional Order

PA0212131592 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Jaime Abad, Technical Judicial Police director, and Carlos Landero, deputy director, on the afternoon of 1 December placed their posts at the disposal of the Supreme Court of Justice in a letter addressed to Court President Dr. Carlos Lucas Lopez.

The letter reported: Given the severe and serious accusations made against the institution we direct, we truly believe that by placing our posts at the disposal of the Honorable Court of Justice, we will contribute to a partial and open investigation. By the aforementioned measure, Abad and Landero said, we want to ratify our respect for the constitutional order and our full subordination to the country's branches.

Argentina

Menem Accepts Resignations of 3 Ministers

PY0312003392 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2342 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Dec (TELAM)—Media Secretary Raul Burzaco confirmed to TELAM tonight that President Carlos Menem has accepted the resignations submitted by Interior Minister Jose Luis Manzano, Labor Minister Rodolfo Diaz, and Education Minister Antonio Salonia.

Other spokespersons consulted by TELAM said that talks are going on that could mean that current Public Functions Secretary Gustavo Beliz will be offered the Interior Ministry, while Labor Under Secretary Enrique Rodriguez presumably will replace Diaz.

Regarding Salonia's replacement, it has been learned that Deputy Jorge Rodriguez, current head of the Chamber of Deputies' Education Committee, would be Salonia's replacement.

Names New Ministers

PY0312011492 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0045 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 2 Dec (TELAM)—President Carlos Menem tonight ordered the removal of Interior Minister Jose Luis Manzano, Education Minister Antonio Salonia, and Labor Minister Rodolfo Diaz, and named Gustavo Beliz, Jorge Rodriguez, and Enrique Rodriguez, respectively, to replace them.

The modifications that Menem ordered were confirmed by Media Secretary Raul Burzaco and Eduardo Bauza, secretary general of the presidency, who indicated that the president decided on the removals this afternoon. [passage omitted]

It has been learned that the new ministers will be installed on 3 December, although at 2130 [2330 GMT] this had not yet been officially confirmed. [passage omitted]

* Menem Criticizes Labor Union Leaders

93SM0056B Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 4 Nov 92 p 11

[Text] President Carlos Menem interpreted the strike called for this coming Monday [9 November] by the CGT [General Confederation of Labor] as an attempt by "some leaders" to exert pressure with a view to obtaining posts in the political regime. In the afternoon, he visited the 1992 Weapons Fair, where he was given a set of hunting knives, a pistol, and a purse for his daughter Zulema as gifts.

Menem said yesterday that some trade unionists are exerting pressure in order to win positions in the political regime, and he gave assurance that "they can hold one or 20,000 strikes," but the government is not going to alter either its economic model or its proposed reforms of the labor laws.

The president, who visited the various stands at the 1992 Weapons Fair organized on the gounds of the Palermo Rural Association, reiterated that "absolutely nothing will be done affecting anything as a result of this power play" scheduled for next Monday by the CGT. He defended the constitutional right to strike, but gave assurance at the same time that the government will guarantee the right to work.

When asked if he interpreted the strike "as a measure to exert pressure in order to participate in the government, to win positions," Menem responded: "Yes. Based on what some leaders are saying, of course it is."

The chief executive went on to say that "the other day, a (trade-union) leader stated that wages are satisfactory, but there is protest because an effort is being made to exclude the trade unionists from the playing field."

"What does this mean?" Menem was then asked. His answer was "that they want to play some role in the leadership of the state."

According to the president, "the only thing that will be achieved" by the trade unionists on Monday, 9 November, "is that all of the workers who take the day off will have one day less of wages," and he warned that the day after the strike, "we will be in the same position as before."

No Change in Procedure

"They can hold one or 20,000 strikes, but they can alter neither our path, nor the economic model, nor the proposals we are submitting to the parliament to make the labor legislation more modern and flexible." This is one of the statements Menem has reiterated most frequently during his radio and television talks.

With regard to the economic model, he recalled that it has allowed Argentina "to be come a kind of focus of world attention," since "businessmen, intellectuals, and scientists come here from all parts of the world to observe what is happening at close hand and to offer their points of view."

Labor Reform

On labor reform, he defined it as a series of undertakings "to give jobs to young people between 15 and 20 years old." And he maintained that "one cannot be so egotistical as to maintain a closed legislative approach based on the alleged need to defend the rights of those who are working now."

Menem explained that if the strike is a protest against the new labor legislation being proposed, "We are not going to yield. There is no reason to stop, and we will continue with our proposals for change in the labor sector, which are already under way."

He also defended the most recent package of economic measures designed to encourage "more exports and more production." "The main message," he said in conclusion, "is designed to calm the people. They do not want us to change what we are doing now. That we perfect it, yes, but not that we change it in a way representing a step backward or sideways."

* Troops in Yugoslavia, Budget Issues Viewed

93SM0054B Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 28 Oct 92 p 7

[Article by Alfredo Canedo: "Defense Seeks Budget for Troops Posted to Yugoslavia"]

[Text] Minister of Defense Erman Gonzalez is contemplating the possibility that in the coming weeks, the UN [United Nations] Security Council will ask permission to use Argentine troops for combat action in what was formerly Yugoslavia. It is thought that it will not be necessary to ask the Congress for authorization, spokesmen for that ministry say, because "there are treaties with the UN that have already been ratified by the government and supersede common law."

After a study of this matter in the defense committee of the lower chamber, Eduardo Ernesto Felgueras (UCR [Radical Civic Union]) and Oscar Alende (PI [Intransigent Party]) warned the minister in two telephone calls that "the legislative branch has the authority to approve, by special law, the participation, or inability to participate, of the troops in combat actions of an offensive nature."

This episode was not the only reason for the turmoil at the Defense Ministry. Last week, Ambassador Jorge Vasquez read a message to the General Assembly of the UN, in his capacity as head of the Rio Group. "The deliberative and decision-making processes of the Security Council," he said, "should be clear. Without overlooking the value and the usefulness of unofficial consultations, Article 31 of our Charter pertaining to the participation of states that are not members of the Council in those matters affecting their interests must be taken into account." This statement became known to the Defense Ministry through a video cassette recorded by the ATC, provoking irritation in Gonzalez.

In the minister's view, the demand that Argentina not be excluded from the decisions of the permanent members of the Security Council falls within the exclusive jurisdiction of his ministry. He believes that this statement by Vasquez, if indeed it was made on behalf of the Rio Group, is part of a "maneuver" by political sectors in the Foreign Ministry opposed to him personally.

More Trouble

The maintenance of the military troops (1,000 men) posted in the former Yugoslavia led to a further polemic argument between Gonzalez and Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo. The position of Gonzalez is as follows. If the Argentine battalion is going to be required to participate in combat actions with the "blue helmets," the Defense Ministry needs a larger budget in order to purchase 81 and 120 mm mortars, 105 mm howitzers, and six or seven high-technology tanks. Furthermore, he adds, there has been a delay of four or five months in the payment by the UN of the $900 owed each man, and the Defense Ministry should therefore use its own funds to settle these debts.

To this, the Economy Ministry responds that during the first 10 months of this year, the Defense Ministry received 1,227,948 pesos. Therefore, the Secretariat of Finance will not provide it with funds in addition to what has already been allocated out of the national budget. Finally, the Economy Ministry proposes a novel system for paying the troops posted to what was formerly Yugoslavia. The pay of the soldiers assigned to the rear guard would be reduced by one-fourth, while the personnel assigned to combat operations would receive full pay.

In recent days, a pamphlet of no more than 10 pages has been circulated at the Defense Ministry. It contains details of the current outlays for 1992, and many there are saying that it was drafted by the military advisers of Minister Gonzalez, who are worried about the demands being made of the Secretariat of Finance for funds to pay for for military operations domestically and abroad.

This pamphlet, which has had very limited distribution, emphasizes the budget needs the military commanders are facing at this time of the year. They are: 1) The Finance Ministry has provided the Army General Staff with 701,384 pesos, including 603,213 for payroll, and 97,615 for services; 2) The General Staff of the Navy has received 467,374 pesos, with about 315,645 being allocated for payroll, and 52,798 allocated for services; and 3) The General Staff of the Air Force has received 323,305 pesos, divided into 283,277 for payroll and 35,469 for services.

"The General Staff concludes from this summary that this sector does not have the financial capacity to pay for the cost of military missions abroad," the initial paragraph in the pamphlet explains.

There is subsequent mention of the punishment of personnel allegedly responsible for diverting military budget funds to pay for unnecessary activities. Finally, the international policy issues related to defense are emphasized. "The Armed Forces find themselves faced with the challenge of finding points of agreement with the United Nations 'Peace Plan,' since this is the central axis of the nation's political relationships with the Western democracies."

According to the experts at the Defense Ministry, this pamphlet was drafted on the night of Monday, 19 October, in the Joint Military Planning offices. It is the top officials there who advise the minister on the operational requirements of the Armed Forces and the Security Forces.

Brazil

Angry at Franco's Comments, Ministers Delay Trip

PY0312122592 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 2 Dec 92 p 21

[Article by Ana Claudia Barbosa]

[Text] Brasilia—Without any definition of the trend of the new government policies, the fiscal reform, the privatization policy, the agreement with the private creditors, and irritated at President Itamar Franco's comments to O GLOBO that he did not like the proposal for the privatization of the National Iron and Steel Company [CSN], Finance Minister Gustavo Krause and Planning Minister Paulo Haddad postponed their 4 December trip to Washington to visit the IMF.

The postponement, which consists in principle of delaying the trip for 15 days, was reported by the Finance Ministry after the two ministers evaluated the level of discredit they are being exposed to domestically because President Itamar Franco repeatedly disrespects their authority in public. When they learned through the press that the president disliked the proposal for the CSN privatization, Krause and Haddad again commented on the level of discredit to which they are being exposed by the president and some Planalto Palace aides. The ministers denied being willing to immediately leave their positions but commented that, in view of the circumstances, it is a possibility. They expressed their feelings during a cabinet meeting with the president last weekend following the publication of the presidential decree in which Franco interfered in the prices area without previously consulting the two ministers.

This is a temporary government. In addition, it has no fiscal reform, no privatization program, no agreement with the creditors, and no short-term program. One of the ministers' close advisers has said that it makes no sense to propose resuming implementation of the agreement with the IMF,

In Buenos Aries, presidential spokesman Francisco Baker tried to report on the decision to cancel the trip with tranquillity, saying Franco had asked the two ministers to remain in the country to accompany the fiscal reform voting at Congress. The president learned of the two ministers' plans by phone at about 1700 and immediately agreed with them. It has been established that the postponement of Krause and Haddad's trip will not interfere with the signature of loan contracts among Brazil, the World Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank. Attorney General of National Finances Tercio Ferraz, Foreign Affairs Secretary Denot Medeiros, and Antonio Barros de Castro, president of the National Bank for Economic and Social Development, will sign the agreements.

Further on Postponement

PY0212134192 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Finance Minister Gustavo Krause and Planning Minister Paulo Haddad have postponed their scheduled trip to Washington to discuss the renegotiation of the Brazilian foreign debt and to meet with IMF officials.

Deputy Roberto Freire, the government leader at the Chamber of Deputies, has stated that the postponement is not related to the Chamber Tax Committee's failure to vote on the fiscal amendment bill. [passage omitted]

In light of the Chamber Tax Committee's decision to delay its vote on the bill for 20 sessions, the fiscal amendment bill will not be discussed at the Chamber plenum before 15 December, unless a political agreement is reached to move up this date. All this may preclude congressional approval of the bill this year because two rounds of votes are required in each house of Congress.

Franco Admits To Canceling Trip

PY0212191092 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1500 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] President Itamar Franco said it was he who canceled the trip by Ministers Gustavo Krause and Paulo Haddad to the United States. Krause and Haddad were scheduled to negotiate aspects of the Brazilian foreign debt with IMF representatives. The president said in Buenos Aires that Krause and Haddad must stay in Brasilia to follow negotiations in Congress on the fiscal reform bill.

President Itamar Franco is attending the Rio Group summit in Buenos Aires. Brazil and its neighboring countries ended the meeting with a message aimed at strengthening democracy in Latin America. The president will return to Brasilia at 2000 today.

Franco 'Surprised' by U.S. Trade Restrictions

PY0312022892 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Excerpts] At the conclusion of the Rio Group summit meeting, which was held in Buenos Aires, interim President Itamar Franco granted a news conference. The president asserted that his administration wants to prevent the modernization process from benefiting only the economy. He added that Brazil objects to the U.S. decision to impose restrictive measures on Brazilian products. [passage omitted]

After emphasizing Brazil's firm decision to implement a fair and broad integration process, President Itamar Franco spoke about the restrictive measures imposed by the United States on Brazilian products:

[Begin recording] We also had the opportunity to tell the other chiefs of state the following: We have been surprised by the recent unilateral restrictive measures implemented by the United States, because they go against our policy of open trade with the rest of the world. These measures prevent some of our highly competitive products from reaching important markets. We want to increasingly export these products under equitable and fair conditions. When we discuss the opening of our economy, of our market, we have reservations about the U.S. Government's attitude regarding these unilateral measures. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Mercosur Implementation Deadline To Be Met

PY2911012292 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1310 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Brasilia, 26 Nov (EFE)—The Brazilian Government will not allow changing the date for the implementation of the Common Market of the South, Mercosur, which Brazil promised to put into effect with Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay as of 1995.

Brazilian Foreign Minister Hernando Henrique Cardoso said the timetable established in the Mercosur Treaty is "irreversible" and should be met "with realism" by the four signatory countries.

This is how Cardoso replied to businessmen and legislators from the Mercosur countries in a meeting in Brasilia when they asked for a review of the timetable in order to protect the economic sectors that may get hurt by the future organization.

The Mercosur Treaty established that as of 1995 the transit of goods, products, and people between Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, and Paraguay will be absolutely free.

Congressmen from the four countries met in Brasilia to study the integration process. They released a declaration asking for a review of the timetable, which established that as of 1 January 1995 all barriers between the signatory countries will be lifted.

Voices of concern were expressed in the meeting that also was attended by business representatives.

The legislators and businessmen who attended the meeting asked for the formation of a fund for the reconversion of productive sectors that may be hurt by the free competition.

They also said the deadline is too short; therefore, they asked for a reconsideration in order for businessmen and industrialists to adapt themselves to the new situation they will face as of 1995.

In a news conference with the meeting's participants, Cardoso admitted that the process for creating the Mercosur is difficult but he said its implementation is "irreversible."

Cardoso said the problems being encountered are "normal," and gave as an example the problems faced by the European countries for three decades to establish the EC.

Cardoso admitted, however, the need for more detailed negotiations among productive sectors—mainly of southern Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay—that said Mercosur will lead them to bankruptcy.

The Brazilians complained about the tariffs and sanitation measures imposed by Argentina to stop the purchases in Brazil that reached the highest levels in decades this year.

Legislators from the Brazilian southern states demanded that their agricultural production be protected from competition from Paraguay and Uruguay, which have cheaper production costs as well many other facilities resulting from the integration agreements.

Deputy Fletter Junior said, for example, that Brazilians buy tractors in Uruguay at a price 25 to 40 percent lower than in Brazil.

Government Supports Surinamese Government

PY2711115492 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2223 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Brasilia, 26 Nov (EFE)—The Foreign Ministry (Itamaraty) today released a communique stating that the Brazilian Government supports the constitutional Surinamese Government. The announcement was prompted by the possibility of a threat to that country's political stability.

The Foreign Ministry note says that "the Brazilian Government is carefully watching the development of the internal political situation in Suriname following the resignation of Armed Forces Commanders Desire Bouterse."

Brazil's concerns are added to those expressed by the United States, Venezuela, the Netherlands, and France. These countries have not dismissed the possibility of a military adventure by Bouterse who in 1980 headed a coup in the country and became Suriname's "strong man" for a decade.

Colombia

Gaviria Sends Letter to AD/M-19

PA0312022992 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 25 Nov 92 p 6A

["Excerpts" of letter sent by President Cesar Gaviria to the 19 April Movement Democratic Alliance, AD/M-19, on 25 November following its withdrawal from the government]

[Text] Mr. Antonio Navarro Wolff and other members of the 19 April Movement Democratic Alliance, AD/M-19, National Directorate

Santa Fe de Bogota

Dear Sirs:

Any Colombian abreast of our history and the difficulties the country has faced in recent years deplores the AD/M-19 withdrawal from the government that you announced on 24 November. The period during which the AD/M-19 entered civilian life, joined the government, and participated in the drafting of a new Constitution has shown us that it is through team work and the identification of common goals that we will lead Colombia to the 21st century in peace and with social justice.

As I expressed to you at the meeting we held on 24 November, all Colombians should applaud your strong rejection of guerrilla actions and your adherence to the letter written by a group of democratic intellectuals a few days ago in which they said the guerrilla struggle is historically obsolete.

It is a known fact that the government shares that rejection. Your words clearly show that today you are part of the Colombian political spectrum, peacefully participating in politics, because you believe it is the right thing to do, and because you have played fair for Colombia.

In contrast, the National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNG], today has become a cartel of terrorist violence and the fiercest enemy of our expanding democracy, which of course includes the demobilized guerrillas, those who accompanied the AD/M-19 in this process, the Popular Liberation Army (EPL), the Quintin Lame, and the Revolutionary Workers Party (PRT), all of whom today are targets of their attacks.

At no time has it been the government's intention to divide political groups based on the dichotomy "if you are not with me, you are against me." On the contrary, the country has witnessed the government's broad-mindedness, the way in which it designed a scheme in which the solidarity of each political force was shown through its commitment with the ministry under its responsibility in the government. Afterward, through a broad political agreement the country witnessed how we led a process of debates on key national issues, so that the participation of the Liberal Party, the New Democratic Force, and the AD/M-19 in the government could be based on more specific guidelines.

You mentioned the deterioration or estrangement between the government and the AD/M-19, which supposedly finally made you decide to withdraw from the government on 24 November. In my opinion, this estrangement is understandable given the proximity of the electoral process and your desire to create political alternatives with undoubtedly unselfish electoral goals.

I totally disagree with your assertion that the government does not have a peace policy. The government has outlined and maintained its peace policy. Despite guerrilla actions and the incredible ruthlessness of its vile methods—terrorism, drug trafficking, kidnappings, extortion—the government kept the door open for dialogue for more than two years. For months, it sat down at the negotiating table with guerrilla members and presented not only the government's policy in all fronts, but a Constitution that, thanks to a broad national spirit, opened the doors to participation.

What were the results? It is not necessary to know much about politics to reply to that question. It is not necessary to know much about peace or war either. The guerrillas, as the popular saying goes, "tried to fool the country." Its leaders did not present proposals. They did not state what they wanted, or what they were fighting for. They avoided the subject of kidnappings, and when they returned the body of Argelino Duran, a man who had to endure the misery of a kidnapping at a late age, they had no way of justifying to the country this new method of cruelty.

However, let me go even further. Not only did we broaden—and when I speak in the plural I am referring to all righteous Colombians, not to the government—the political system, but, we also strengthened the Constitution's rights, guarantees, and the mechanisms for its defense. What is more, we even held elections for governors. To eliminate the vices in politics we prohibited parliamentary tourism and absenteeism. We also strengthened the Congress to control the government and we created the guardianship as a defense instrument against abuse. Moreover, in our struggle against impunity we created the post of the prosecutor general; this has already demonstrated its huge benefits.

We have struggled against corruption, not only as far as penalties are concerned—which always produce headlines—but above all, in the institution's modernization. We took the public administration, lagging behind and brought it up to date. Currently, public administration requires efficiency, honesty, and the will to serve.

Nevertheless, above all, we implemented a policy of tolerance and pluralism as had not been seen in Colombia for many years. This attitude, that is part of the basic principles of my political beliefs, is what has reached one of the most important achievements in the search for peace in Colombia. This achievement is your [M-19] insertion into the peaceful political life and your active participation in public posts through popular vote and in the government. I hope that a short range vision does not tarnish this major achievement by the Colombian society as a whole.

The declaration of interior commotion was not improvised. The Armed Forces have been receiving considerable funding, through the regular budget as well as through the incorrectly named "war tax". One only has

to look at the figures of the past decade to see how committed this government is to the public forces.

I will always want peace but I do not want sterile conversations that only end in a sign of weakness. We will not leave this nation in the hands of guerrillas, narcoguerrillas, or narcoterrorists.

I do not believe, my friends of the AD/M-19, that this is the mission my compatriots have entrusted to me.

Minister on Goals of New Protection Decrees

PA0212185392 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 2300 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Report by Miriam Ortiz]

[Text] Defense Minister Rafael Pardo explained on 1 December the scope of the new internal disturbance decrees that will provide more protection to mining and oil zones and more support for military and security forces. Taking into consideration that more than 100 policemen and Administrative Department of Security agents have been assassinated in the last two months by guerrilla groups, drug traffickers, and common criminals, the government will earmark part of the budget set aside for expenses incurred within the declaration of a state of internal disturbance to pay for doubled life insurance policies for security force members who are killed in action.

[Begin Pardo recording] The life insurance will cost about 3.5 million pesos. This is in addition to other conditions established by the law, including pension or indemnification. [end recording]

Another decree calls the expropriation of land around the Cano Limon-Covenas oil fields in Arauca and the Cusiana reserves in Casanare Department. The measure strives to counter the guerrilla groups' domination in these areas.

[Begin Pardo recording] Neither the people's rights nor their right to own land will be jeopardized. Instead, their property, including the land and any construction thereon, will be purchased at market prices. We will basically enforce mechanisms to isolate certain facilities and prevent settlers who might eventually become a threat to the security of the facilities and the communities established there. [end recording]

The other decree grants authority to judges or municipal authorities to assume temporarily the investigation of crimes in regions that lack public prosecutors or district attorneys.

[Begin Pardo recording] A total of 26 public prosecutors will be appointed and more than 100 judicial police members will be established in military units. [end recording]

The judicial police will have to submit reports to the district attorney in charge of the jurisdiction. The measure will result in a quicker investigation of crimes, including kidnapping, extortion, blackmail, cattle rustling, and drug trafficking.

DAS Director Says Guerrilla Groups To Attack

PA0212185292 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 2300 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Report by Diego Hernan Cabal]

[Text] Fernando Brito, Administrative Department of Security [DAS] director, announced on 1 December that guerrilla groups have plans to attack civilian, police, and military targets in several cities throughout Colombia. He said the guerrilla groups receive support from the so-called people's militias and common criminals to carry out their actions.

The outlook for December is an increase in urban terrorist actions similar to the ones the country has experienced in recent weeks. This is what the DAS has learned based on intelligence gathered on the guerrilla organizations.

[Begin Brito recording] We believe they will try to increase their terrorist actions and actions against the public forces and the state's security organizations in the cities. [end recording]

According to the DAS director, these actions are being carried out following an agreement with the people's militias and common criminal organizations.

[Begin Brito recording] They have sought the support of other groups—which do not necessarily have ties with them—in some regions. These organizations include militia groups that do not have commitments with the guerrilla groups. These organizations carry out actions on behalf of the terrorists groups. [end recording]

The guerrilla groups give the people's militias weapons and explosives so they may carry out their actions. Aside from carrying out urban actions, the subversives are mercilessly torturing and assassinating security agents.

These men were DAS agents and their bodies show signs of violence the country has not seen since the worst days in the 1950's. Coroners' reports indicate some of them were still alive when their legs were cut off or when their hearts were ripped out.

[Begin Brito recording] The actions have undoubtedly been carried out by guerrilla organizations. The organizations that advocate these actions have been fully identified. We wanted the people to know this. [end recording]

These acts of barbarism were also reported by the DAS on 1 December at the human rights office and the Presidency, and others have been reported to the world.

Police Capture ELN Leader During Raid

PA0312025092 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Cartagena—Carlos Alberto Montes Castelar, also known as Ivan, one of the commanders of the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board in Bolivar Department, has been identified as one of the rebels captured by police after a raid on a house in San Jacinto.

According to authorities, Commander Ivan was the leader of the Jaime Bateman Cayon Front of the Camilist Union of the ELN [Army of National Liberation]. He was basically responsible for the burning of buses, killings, and establishing checkpoints on the main western highway.

* Extent of Guerrilla Control in Arauca Described

93SM0066B Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 1 Nov 92 p 7A

[Article by Maria del Rosario Arrazola: "The Semi-Independent State of Arauca"; first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] Two fronts of the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] and one of the ELN [National Liberation Army] apply their laws as they wish. They are judges, teachers, and policemen. They are the only "government" which is known in these areas.

It is a prohibited area for everyone: for the army, for the police, for the national and departmental governments, for the liberals and conservatives, and for business firms. In short, for everyone who does not have the approval of the guerrillas.

There are many kilometers of roads under the control of the armed, subversive organizations. On the highway which leads from the capital of the Department of Arauca to the Municipality of Panama de Arauca an enormous billboard can be seen with white letters against a green background which states: "Vehicular Traffic Prohibited from 1900 to 0500. Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Authority."

And in fact, as an EL TIEMPO reporter was able to prove when she visited about 10 villages in the central part of the Department of Arauca, no cars move. After 1800 trucks or private vehicles stop, and people ask for shelter in any house. No one is willing to risk moving around.

The "orders of the commander" are in effect in villages, districts, and along the trails. The commander is the judge, policeman, mayor, and teacher. Ultimately, he performs all of those functions which correspond to the state, whose presence in the recently established Department of Arauca is not to be seen anywhere.

On the other hand along the road which connects the Municipality of Fortul with that of Tame there is another enormous sign which states: "We will not lay down our arms because we are defending our lives. Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Authority."

The last time that they had news of the Colombian Army in Puerto Nidia (Municipality of Fortul) was when troops came in a helicopter last week to bomb the area. At the entrance to Puerto Nidia there is another, gigantic poster with the photograph of Jacobo Arenas which states: "Colombia is experiencing the worst violence in the world."

They are the government, or the "fiscalia" [Office of the Public Prosecutor], as they are known. The laws which they apply are almost never broken, because no one wants to be subjected to the implacable punishments of a guerrilla movement which does not hesitate to apply the death penalty.

A resident of the area said: "If a husband hits his wife, a guerrilla committee visits him to call his attention to the matter. If he repeats his offense, they return, and this time they tie him to a tree for eight hours. And in case he does not change his behavior they try him, which may well end up in shooting him. Therefore, who dares to go against them? In these areas not a single man hits his wife."

Similar situations of control over the intimate and daily life of the people are experienced in the villages of Panama de Arauca, Los Colonos, Puerto Nidia, Santa Isabel, Santa Clara, Puerto Gloria, Tres Esquinas, San Francisco, Brisas del Caranal, and Caranal.

These are villages which have two streets, one of them filled with billiard parlors. Along the other street are the school, the homes of the farmers, and the cooperative. The farmers basically grow corn, bananas, rice, and cacao. Some of them work on cattle ranches.

These are new villages—some of them quite recently established. None of them is more than 10 years old, and their residents are not usually from the area. They come from the North Coast, Santander, and Tolima. Some of them come to escape from violence. Others come because they thought that here they could make a living in the petroleum industry. Still others are brought in by the guerrillas themselves.

In all of these villages, although they do not have either running water or a sewage system, they do have electricity and access roads. They have no great difficulty in selling what they produce.

A farmer pointed out: "It may be that they say that we are guerrillas, or that we help them with food and with a place to sleep, but they are from here. We saw most of them grow up, and they help us to find a teacher or to obtain electricity. And they even help to defend us."

What this farmer does not know is that for the construction of each road built by the state in Arauca the

guerrillas collect between 10 and 15 percent, depending on the total value of the project.

A contractor who asked not to be named recognized: "It is up to us to pay them because this is the only way of completing the project and protecting the lives of our employees. And so they do not bother us. They demand that the highway be maintained in perfect condition, and periodically they come to see how the work is going ahead."

During the trip made by this reporter the existence of an impressive network of informers at various levels was proved. These people tell the guerrillas in case they see any stranger or if Army troops are near.

Curiously, those who have taken up arms are not hidden in the mountains or in the thick vegetation of the Department of Arauca. Wearing uniforms and with rifles on their shoulders, they walk along the highways and are seen in the stores or in the billiard parlors.

Regional fiestas are not held unless the guerrillas approve them. Last weekend a group of people from the Committee of Fiestas and Fairs of Arauquita travelled to the guerrilla camps to ask permission to hold the annual cattle fair. The leaders of the guerrilla fronts gave their approval, but on condition that there will be no drunkenness or acts of violence. The fair will be held in the first few days of December.

Despite the implicit intimidation which the mere presence of the guerrillas generates, it cannot be said that the people live in fear. They live with the guerrillas. After all, they are the only "government" which they know.

* ELN Reportedly Divided on Dialogue Issues

93SM0066A Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 30 Oct 92 pp 1, 6A

[Article by Maria del Rosario Arrazola: "ELN Will Reportedly Open a Powerful Front"; first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Excerpt] The Domingo Lain Front does not agree to a dialogue and is threatening to leave the ELN [National Liberation Army].

The Domingo Lain Front, one of the strongest political and military groups in the National Liberation Army (ELN), is about to leave the organization in view of the fact that differences have sharpened regarding a dialogue with the government.

This was confirmed to EL TIEMPO by spokesmen of the Domingo Lain Front in Arauca, who expressed their disagreement, not only regarding conversations with the national government, but also regarding the so-called regional dialogues, which have been turned into a rallying point for the guerrilla movement throughout the country.

The spokesman of the Domingo Lain Front said: "This position has created many organizational problems for us, and we are engaged in clarifying the situation. The debate is going on, even in the midst of a confrontation."

He also said that it is premature to speak of a split. However, he considered that a dialogue should be held to solve social problems, not to demobilize or to disarm each other.

The Domingo Lain Front, which operates in the northern part of the Department of Arauca, where the petroleum infrastructure of the country is concentrated, is financed through what they call a "tribute" which they demand from multinational companies. Another characteristic of this military organization is that it does not engage in clashes with the security forces and that it has succeeded in economically "dominating" the areas in which it operates.

Only a few days before peace discussions were begun between the government and the Guerrilla Coordinating Board in Caracas in June 1991, the Domingo Lain Front issued a communique in which it expressed disagreement with this dialogue process.

Some months later it was learned through the ELN itself that the "Captain Parmenio" and the "Solano Sepulveda" fronts supported the Domingo Lain Front.

Now a certain difference of view has not only emerged regarding the Central Command (Coce) of the ELN, the highest leadership body of this group. It is clear, as this newspaper was able to prove, that relations with Fronts 10 and 48 of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), which also operate in the Department of Arauca, are poor.

The source consulted said: "Our communications are sporadic. We have been trying to ensure that relations will not deteriorate, in view of the fact that we share this same area. However, each group is carrying on its activities without consulting with the other. What is important is that we should not get in each other's way."

"Felipe," the political coordinator of Front 10 of the FARC, confirmed that they communicate with each other occasionally by radiotelephone. He added: "However, I do not know whether they would be prepared to support regional dialogues. It would be necessary to ask them."

Nevertheless, both "Felipe," as well as "Danilo," the military commander of Front 10, flatly deny that there is a split. However, each of the groups which operate in Arauca has set out its own "borders": the FARC in the center of the department and the Domingo Lain Front a little farther to the North.

This is not the first time that the ELN has dealt with this type of situation, which threatens to increase differences. In the middle of 1991, when preparations were also being made for the round of conversations between the government and the guerrilla movement, to be held in

Caracas, it was learned that the so-called Current of Socialist Renovation, led by Jacinto Ruiz and Gabriel Borja, had appeared. These men were commanders of the ELN from the North coast fronts.

This group considered that the dialogue should have demobilization as its objective and should not be used as a screen to win a breathing spell in the eyes of public opinion. [passage omitted]

Paraguay

Mexican President Salinas Arrives for Visit

PY0312011192 Asuncion Cerro Cora Sistema de Nacional de Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari arrived this afternoon at Silvio Pettirossi International Airport for an official visit. This is the first visit by a Mexican president to Paraguay.

Salinas' visit has been considered an unprecedented and relevant event because it is the first time in the history of our relations that a Mexican president has visited our country. This event is taking place after the installation in Paraguay of a new environment of coexistence under the administration of President Andres Rodriguez.

President Salinas de Gortari and his delegation were welcomed by President Andres Rodriguez in the international airport, where he was given top honors. [passage omitted]

* Campaign Platforms of ANR Tickets Assessed

93SM0074A Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 7 Sep 92 pp 4-5

[Report by Myriam Yore: "The Colorado Options"]

[Text] Forty-six years of the Colorado Party's political hegemony in power are at stake in the internal elections of 15 November when, for the first time in the history of the ANR, three clearly distinguishable election options will fight for the official nomination of the Colorado Party for the general elections next year.

Argana-Ybanez

Autonomous traditionalism, which offers the presidential precandidacy of Luis Maria Argana, represents the Colorado tradition linked to the party by emotional sentiment, the doctrinaire orthodoxy defended by a political class that was ousted from party leadership in the most recent internal elections. From this perspective, the Arganist political platform is the proposal of conservative nationalism which, based on recognition of the country's underdevelopment, grants the government the necessary power to intervene in the economic and social development process in order to achieve a fair redistribution of wealth.

Government as Interventionist

This program of "autonomous" government, based on "Colorado social and Christian humanism," proposes a policy of limited government intervention in the economy in search of balanced development with social justice and economic planning for the public sector as an instrument of development. "....The government should confine itself to its essential functions, abandon its entrepreneurial adventure, and privatize entities not vital to its real needs, proceeding on the assumption that such modernization will mean distribution with greater justice by virtue of unavoidable social equity. This will only be possible if there is an attempt to coordinate modernization and social justice, an opening of the economy and autonomy,."

Concerning rural problems, the government platform proposes the updating and development of the "concept and scope of integral agrarian reform, without abandoning such options as rural development, which may be proposed as additional alternative conduct."

It proposes agrarian reform based on "a tax system that stimulates production and discourages large landholdings, promotion of small-and medium-sized business, rationalization and standardization of land use, systems and organizations that guarantee the primary producer fair prices, low-cost agricultural credit without middlemen, farm insurance, education of the farmer and his family, and planned farm communities."

Social State of Law

Politically speaking, the "autonomous" program proposes consolidation of the democratic system of government within a framework of a social state of law, one in which human rights and public freedoms are strengthened and social rights relating to health, education, work, agrarian reform, social security, and ecology are implemented, along with laws tending "toward equality of opportunity and the possibility of access to better living conditions with a view to the establishment of a fair system for the redistribution of wealth."

Individual rights will have "unlimited protection, particularly protection of freedom, so that the vicious, antidemocratic practices that have damaged our political life for so long will disappear once and for all."

Social rights, now granted priority, mean the promotion of health as the sine qua non element for the development of society. The government will have an obligation to promote "a national health system within which coordinated programs are implemented in the public and private sectors."

In the fields of education and culture, the platform promises a system of education aimed at "the eradication of illiteracy and training for work" and a "nonelitist culture." "The government," it emphasizes, "must give

up imparting an ideologized or partisan education, confining itself to offering those elements which comprise the scientific process of knowledge."

In the labor sector, creating sources of jobs, preserving trade union gains, and providing government support for business ventures that encourage workers through additional benefits are commitments assumed by the Arganist platform.

Regional Integration

In connection with subregional integration, Paraguayan participation in Mercosur [Common Market of the South] is challenged as an integrationist project that neglects the disadvantages stemming from our Mediterranean position and lesser relative development. The platform provides for revision of the Asuncion Treaty so that it will envision the heterogeneity of nations and their respective interests.

Wasmosy-Seifart

Within the framework of the alliance in power, the presidential platform proposed by the ticket of Juan Carlos Wasmosy and Angel Roberto Seifart represents the formula articulating the interests of the Colorado elite which controls the Government Junta, those of the business sector emerging from business with the government, and those of the military leadership and the Executive Branch, headed by General Andres Rodriguez.

In that sense, it proposes continuation of the orientation of the Rodriguez government.

Politically speaking, it aims to consolidate a limited democracy of political elites and, economically speaking, proposes the "takeoff" and limited modernization within the framework of a decidedly neoliberal scenario.

Market Economy

The Wasmosy-Seifart platform is presented as a model "political-business team" that combines political "talent" and business "efficiency." It promises a debureaucratized, modern, efficient government administration.

It proposes the implementation of a social market economy in which private initiative will be the "driving force" of the "process of economic growth with fairness" and in which the government will limit its intervention to programs and public services in social areas."

Within this framework, it proposes an economic policy aimed at "creating and consolidating structures permitting sustained economic growth with a fair distribution of wealth. Our government will promote private enterprise and integration into the market, on favorable terms, of the weakest sectors of the production apparatus for the democratic purpose of reconciling capital with work" as the basic purposes of government.

Concerning government intervention in the economy, the platform emphasizes that the government "is not to be a producer of goods and services, but rather, a jealous custodian within a governmental framework, managing its social function and the relationship between capital and work."

In the course of the election campaign, precandidates have assumed a commitment of promoting the process of privatizing public enterprises as a fundamental factor for the downsizing of government, while emphasizing that this does not imply any "indiscriminate" privatization of government enterprises, but only of those that are clearly inefficient.

Social Problems

Among the basic proposals referring to social issues, the platform promises to develop a rural policy "that will serve to rescue the farmer from social and economic exploitation and exclusion through an effective and dynamic distribution of land and technical and credit assistance, while guaranteeing a stable market and fair prices for farm products."

In order to fight unemployment, the platform proposes to implement a plan "aimed at achieving full employment and providing farmers with land and workers with fair wages." To that effect, the government will provide the necessary legal and political conditions along with clear rules in order to encourage national and foreign investment that will generate sources of jobs.

The platform will promote a public health policy based on adequate budget allocations to facilitate organized, systematic attention to public health problems."

It will guarantee "every citizen's right to education without discrimination based on one's social, political, or geographic situation." Ensuring the dignity of teachers is recognized as a "precondition for the application of a new pedagogy having an ethical and democratizing content." It also promises a hierarchization of the civil service, "guaranteeing job stability and continuous specialization so that the civil servant may fulfill his commitment to society with efficiency, responsibility, and honesty." It also promises "institutional mechanisms" guaranteeing "the workers' right to form unions and strengthen those that already exist for the purpose of the proper organization of economic life."

Diaz de Vivar-Frutos

The platform proposed by the ticket of Gustavo Diaz de Vivar and Julio Cesar Frutos for the presidency and vice presidency of the country represents the Colorado Party's "other" presidential alternative headed by a businessman, although one with a longer Liberal family and personal tradition than that of Juan Carlos Wasmosy.

The current president of the Senate and Legislative Branch, who is an industrialist, unquestionably appeared to be the guaranteed "presidential candidate" of the Executive Branch, Colorado Party, and power brokers until just before the internal party elections. From the

time he was ousted from his precandidacy for the higher spheres of power, he has gradually lost strength throughout the election campaign and has almost been excluded from the tough political confrontation between Argana and Wasmosy.

Nevertheless, providing a balanced image and spouting modern political rhetoric, Diaz de Vivar has succeeded in attracting a certain fraction of the Colorado electorate, which puts him in a position to form an alliance with any one of the other factions (it would be easiest with the Arganists).

Economic Pragmatism

The proposals developed by Diaz de Vivar in the course of the election campaign are aimed at strengthening the institutions of political democracy and at modernizing and democratizing society within a context of a model of sustained and self-sustained development, in tune with our own circumstances and removed from orthodox economic focuses whatever their affiliation.

In that sense, the presidential precandidate has declared his support for "total pragmatism" in the economic field because "it is the path which has led the countries in the world that have made the biggest strides over the past 30 years—irregardless of any specific ideology—to develop their peoples."

Paraguay, he says, "could not simply embark upon a free market economy, as if everyone were trained to compete. Consequently, in a country such as ours, there are areas all along the entire range of social problems in which the government must intervene."

The economic, social, and cultural development promised by his government platform is aimed at "producing a cultural, technological, and productive revolution that will transform Paraguay into a modern, prosperous country" enabling it to overcome "backwardness, ignorance, and material and cultural underdevelopment."

It proposes agricultural development fundamentally based on diversification and efficient production in areas of subsistence and calling upon new technologies and suitable technical and credit support.

The development of agroindustry, along with the industrialization of traditional export crops such as soybeans and cotton, is proposed as a complement to rural development.

The platform also emphasizes the possibility of developing light industries such as metallurgy which are fundamentally based on foreign investment.

Peru

Fujimori Urges Congressmen To Reconstruct Country

PA0212185892 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] President Fujimori has made a strong appeal to congressmen to work to reconstruct Peru and not to disappoint their constituency. He urged them to eliminate old practices of former congresses in which immorality and inefficiency prevailed. President Fujimori made these comments on 30 November.

[Begin Fujimori recording] In view of our professional experience, we all are accustomed to presenting and discussing topics as a means of clarifying ideas and finding solutions. In the former congress, unfortunately, those means became ends in themselves. Legislators spent most of their time engaged in oratorical and Byzantine discussions. Obviously, we are going to break away from this routine. We are, I repeat, working people.

The former congress was also characterized by a true lack of commitment to the interests of Peru. It is a shame they considered themselves special citizens because they were elected or nominated to a position. Once elected they experienced a personality change, things went to their head and they forgot that whoever holds such a position is at the service of the fatherland. That is why I have to remind you that an ideal unites us: A very serious and responsible commitment to Peru. This is neither a lodge nor an association of friends that can be broken or mended according to personal interests.

Some of the chief goals of New Majority/Change 90 are moralization, justice, and national reconstruction. Let us set an example as of now—before the Democratic Constituent Congress is installed. The struggle against immorality is very complicated and we must first have the moral authority to be able to judge others. In the struggle against immorality and corruption, we will often find people who want to deceive us or hide cases of corruption. Let us not be naive and use the same scale to measure different things. Let us not mix things.

A government such as ours, which wants to moralize the people, will always have detractors who wash their dirty laundry in public and bring up irregularities. This has already been done by some media and politicians. Let us not fall naively into their trap. [end recording]

Prosecutor Orders Investigation of Eight Civilians

PA0212205092 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Maria Mayta, ad hoc prosecutor for the case of the foiled coup attempt, has ordered an investigation of eight civilians—including some political leaders, such as Mercedes Cabanillas, secretary of the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance [APRA]; Abel Salinas, former APRA senator; and Alberto Borea, former Popular

Christian Party senator—who may have been involved in the foiled coup d'etat of 13 November.

It was learned on 30 November, after the investigations were given to the 29th Court, that this process will begin in early December. The investigations of civilians allegedly involved in the 13 November events will not be limited to these individuals.

On 14 November, Prosecutor Mayta ordered the Police Division of the Attorney General's Office to investigate eight persons who, according to testimony, had more than just knowledge of the preparations of a coup d'etat against Alberto Fujimori.

[Begin recording] [Mayta] Through a resolution issued by this office, I have opened an investigation through the Police Division of the Attorney General's Office into the possible participation of the following civilians in the rebellion against the State and attempted murder of the president of the Republic.

The persons to be investigated are: Jaime Salinas Lopez Torres, Jorge Polack Merel, Alberto Borea Oderia, Maximo San Roman, Mercedes Cabanillas, LLanos De La Mata, Abel Salinas Izaguirre, Alfredo Camino, Gonzalo Del Solar, Enrique Rodrigues Lararin, and Miguel Reboredo.

[Unidentified reporter] Is there any measure you could take to prevent these people from leaving the country, as Mr. Polack did to remove himself from the process?

[Mayta] I have asked the court to request that Jaime Salinas Lopez Torres not be allowed to leave the country. Just in case it is necessary.

[Reporter] What about the people undergoing police investigation?

[Mayta] For the time being, that has not been done. [end recording]

As of 2 December, the building located on Aramburu Avenue will be the location of the new interrogations. Ad Hoc Prosecutor Maria Mayta will attend each one of the interrogations. The question is: What other people will seek asylum?

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Will your office appoint a prosecutor for the case of the civilians involved in the coup attempt?

[Daniel Espichan, special prosecutor for terrorist crimes] No. This affair is not my business. That case corresponds to another office. [end recording]

San Roman Denies Involvement in Coup Attempt

PA021217069 2 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Engineer Maximo San Roman has emphatically rejected all ties with the movement that plotted the 13 November coup. He said he had no knowledge about the preparations as asserted by President Alberto Fujimori. Also, San Roman blamed the people who surround the president for the Barrios Altos massacre that shocked Peru approximately one year ago.

[Begin San Roman recording] The de facto ruler is also trying to sow mistrust concerning my political actions. I have had not one, but hundreds of meetings in recent months to try to find solutions leading to a return to an authentic democracy in Peru.

I was the one who presented the initiative for a constituent assembly as the political solution to our crisis. The idea was misconstrued and it was brazenly used by the de facto ruler—with the results we all know. He now boasts of support his candidate could not get.

I am a man without political experience, but I have acted honestly because my only motivation was to serve the homeland. My hands are clean and my conscience is clear. When I want to do or say something, I do it or say it publicly. I do not hide behind shady advisers to distort the truth.

I did not participate in those meetings and I had no knowledge of the facts. It goes without saying that, had I known about them, I would not be duty bound to report them. Those who acted did it in compliance with their duty, and in abidance with the Constitution and their conscience.

History will prove them right and, judging from the incidents, we must admire them for their courage and determination to defend the nation's laws and dignity. [end recording]

Presents Document on Coup Attempt

PA0212170392 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Maximo San Roman said he played no role in the thwarted coup attempt of 13 November. At about noon on 1 December San Roman said in a defiant tone that he participated in not one, but hundreds of meetings to find solutions that will lead to a return to democracy. San Roman said flatly that he is not frightened by the dictator and added he has coordinated efforts to establish his own cabinet.

[Begin San Roman recording] I have had contacts with various officers, and as you might understand, I cannot name them because they would be linked to the coup attempt. [end recording]

He made this statement at a news conference at his San Isidro office. In his capacity as constitutional president, as he calls himself, San Roman read a message to the nation exonerating those who tried to topple Alberto Fujimori from all crimes.

[Begin San Roman recording] In displaying that attitude, he gave Peruvians, regardless of their position or situation, the possibility to resort to Article 82 of the Constitution and reminded them of their duty to comply with Articles 74 and 307 of the Constitution.

It is unfair to blame General Jaime Salinas Sedo and other dignified officers of the Peruvian Army for that action. As these officers said, they exercised their right to meet and exchange views without resorting to the use of weapons. This constitutes no crime. They should not be ashamed of anything. [end recording]

Maximo San Roman maintains that an alleged annihilation group made up of Army intelligence members killed 15 people on Huanta Street in the Saltos neighborhood. He presented a document to support this charge.

According to a document produced by Maximo San Roman, which he claimed came from the intelligence service, the murder of 15 people—including men, women, and children on November 1991 at a building on block eight of Huanta Street in Saltos neighborhood—was carried out by an annihilation group made up of Army intelligence members under Captain Vladimiro Montesino Torres, retired.

[Begin San Roman recording] I have a document. I do not want to level any charges, but want you to investigate. I am taking about the Huanta Street murders. According to this document, many people who work for the president are involved. I will distribute a copy of this document. I ask reporters, especially those who are zealous investigators, to conduct an in-depth probe one year after this fateful incident. [end recording]

Army Denies Document Authenticity

PA0312144592 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Official Communique No. 13-92 issued by the Armed Forces General Command Information Office in Lima on 2 December]

[Text] The General Command informs the national public of the following:

1. The same fictitious intelligence document now presented by Maximo San Roman regarding the 3 November 1991 tragic incident at Huanta Street 840 began circulating clandestinely in February 1992. Mr. San Roman has publicly used that note illegally, presenting it and delivering it to the domestic and foreign media as an authentic document. He has also affirmed the veracity of the information contained therein regarding the participation of Army personnel in that incident.

2. The fictitious intelligence document being distributed as a legitimate document seriously hurts the Peruvian Army and maliciously tries to implicate active and retired Army officers and personnel in criminal actions.

3. It is a known fact that unscrupulous individuals have been systematically producing documents, such as the aforementioned intelligence note, to harm institutions and persons with the clear intention of endangering their lives and exposing them to terrorist actions.

4. Regarding the actions mentioned in point three, on 13 February 1992 charges were filed before the Attorney General's Office for actions against the administration of justice. The charges were accompanied by all the evidence confirming the illegal action against the state in order to identify the authors and ensure their punishment by initiating the corresponding investigations.

5. In defending the honor of our institution and its members, this Command has filed the respective penal charges before the Attorney General's Office so—based on the investigation conducted in February 1992—it may proceed according to its functions.

[Issued] Lima, 2 December 1992

[Signed] Armed Forces General Command Information Office

APRA Leader Rejects Coup Involvement Charges

PA0212223092 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance] leader Abel Salinas denies having participated in the 13 November coup attempt.

[Begin recording] [Salinas] I flatly reject the statement contained in your question, not only because it is not true, but because if I had been among those who plotted, you may be sure the coup would have been carried out; it would not have failed. [laughs]

Speaking seriously now, I think it is a well-orchestrated campaign. On 29 November, Engineer Fujimori said there were some political leaders behind this foiled coup and it is a coincidence that, already on 30 November, the prosecutor already has released a list of names of political leaders allegedly involved in the coup.

[Unidentified reporter] Thus, you flatly deny that you have participated in these activities. Could you also deny the alleged participation of other APRA members or leaders such as Mercedes Cabanillas?

[Salinas] Of course. APRA is not a coupist party. Attributing such deeds to us is ignoble, and proves a profound ill-will. I will not run to any embassy, I am not afraid. They know the only shelter and defense the citizens have is the integrity of our positions. I will not go to any oriental embassy [in reference to President Alberto Fujimori allegedly seeking asylum at the Japanese Embassy during the 13 November coup attempt], although I also have friends there. [end recording]

Police Dismantle Shining Path Base; 14 Killed

PA0312042792 Paris AFP in Spanish 0308 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] Lima, 2 Dec (AFP)—Fourteen members of Shining Path were killed in two successive clashes with a police patrol that dismantled a guerrilla base in the Peruvian Amazon area, the police reported on 2 December.

The clashes took place on 30 November and 1 December in Anda District in Huanuco, about 700 kms northeast of Lima, specifically in two villages—Arabe and Shitarillo—inhabited by peasants who cultivate the coca leaf, which is basic for cocaine.

The operation was led by the National Directorate of Special Operations (Dinoes), which did not report any casualties among its ranks.

In Arabe, the clash with a group of guerrillas took place when the police patrol conducted a door-to-door search. Eight rebels were killed in this clash.

In the same area, the policemen were informed that there was a "Shining Path base" in the nearby town of Shitarillo. The police went there and were able to enter after breaking a little resistance by the occupants of the base, who lost six men, the source added. An undetermined number of Shining Path members managed to escape through the dense jungle, leaving behind a considerable amount of weapons, propaganda, and medical equipment. According to the police, Shitarillo was a rebel military training center for many years, but it had not been possible to uncover it.

The Amazonic area of Huanuco and of the neighboring San Martin Department is the area of greatest violence in Peru, where the Colombian and Peruvian cartels purchase the coca leaves grown by more than 200,000 peasants. According to the Peruvian authorities, the Shining Path acts as a middleman between the peasants and the Mafia, imposing on the peasants the price for the coca leaf and then charging the Mafia for armed protection.

On 27 November, 20 Shining Path members and three soldiers were killed in Aucayacu, Huanuco, when a guerrilla column unsuccessfully attacked the military base in that village, close to Anda District.

Dinconte Presents 10 Captured Shining Path Members

PA0212172192 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] The Counterterrorism National Directorate [Dincote] on 1 December presented 10 Shining Path terrorists who were captured during the armed strike called by the Shining Path for 18 and 19 November.

The 10 terrorist criminals, six of them members of the operation cell headed by chieftain Marta Huatay, were arrested during the strike called by the group for 18 and 19 November. According to the Dincote, the detainees had planned to perpetrate a series of attacks during the 22 November elections and were captured while carrying a large amount of explosives, weapons, and subversive propaganda.

Further on Presentation

PA0212220492 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] The Counterterrorism National Directorate, Dincote, has presented 10 criminal terrorists who were captured several days before the Democratic Constituent Congress [CCD] election. The subversives planned to stage attacks against diverse public and private buildings on election day.

To counteract the subversive attacks that might be staged by the Shining Path before, during, and after the so-called armed strike declared by that organization on 18 and 19 December, Dincote carried out the Condor 92 plan, which resulted in the arrest and identification of 16 terrorists. Ten of them were presented to reporters today.

The terrorists are: Oscar Guaroto Salvatierra, 31, also known as Comrade Marcos; Carlos Delgado Altamirano, 28, also known as Comrade Oscar; Filomeno Encarnacion Nieto, 30, also known as Comrade Marco; Delia Berrocal Quito, 27, also known as Tania; and Juan Munarris Ulloa, 26, also known as Comrade Gabriel; all of them committed crimes with Martha Huatay, responsible for the People's Aid Directorate (Direccion de Socorro Popular).

Andres Valdia Cardenas, 25, also known as Comrade Tony was arrested on 22 November. Fergy Mendoza Mateo, 20, also known as Ruben; Jean Villanueva Polo, 20, also known as Comrade Ricardo; Ponciano Lopez Reyes, 34, also known as Comrade Sebastian, military command; and Antonio Canahualpa Bustamante, 26, also known as Comrade Alfredo, were arrested on 23 November. Those arrested claimed credit for staging several attacks in Lima against public and private organizations, factories, installations of the Greater University of San Marcos, and for planning attacks against university professors. The evidence is contained in the documents found when they were captured.

According to the Dincote, the terrorists presented are members of the People's Aid Directorate. The police seized weapons, ammunition, abundant terrorist documents, and materiel from a clandestine printing shop.

Uruguay

Military Clubs Issue Communique on Retirement Bill

PY0312115392 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 0830 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] Almost all the military clubs have strongly criticized Finance Minister Ignacio de Posadas and Blanco

Party Congressmen. In turn, there are hundreds of imminent lawsuits declaring unconstitutional the military and police retirement bill that Congress passed yesterday. In addition, there are several conflicts that might be transferred to the administration that will assume power on 1 March 1995.

Yesterday, shortly after the Chamber of Deputies approved the modifications to the military and police retirement bill, the Military Club, the Air Force Club, the Naval Club, the Retired Officers' Club, and the Armed Forces Retirement Club issued a communique reiterating public statements on the consequences of the enforcement of Article 67 of the Constitution to military retirement allowances. Only the Military Circle did not sign the communique.

The communique states that enormous amounts have been estimated on the basis of an error in the Congressional procedure. The figures were (?purposely) presented to the public as a way to impair the well-being and security of some labor and private sectors.

The communique adds that in view of the reiterated attitude of using the long debate on the subject to give a false image of Armed Forces personnel as a privileged group, the centers and clubs of the Armed Forces categorically reject [words indistinct].

Herreraist [progovernment] deputies and Congressmen have publicly admitted that there is an error in the bill under debate in Congress [passage indistinct].

Foreign Minister To Resign; Replacement Appointed

PY0312154992 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 0830 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] According to official sources, Foreign Minister Hector Gros Espiell will not resign until 13 or 15 January because he plans to attend a meeting of Ibero-American foreign ministers in Madrid on 11 January and to sign a treaty, on behalf of the Uruguayan Government, in Paris on 13 January. Only on his return home from France will he tender his resignation.

President Lacalle confirmed yesterday that Senator Sergio Abreu, Blanco Party Faction Movement Renewal and Victory, will replace Gros Espiell as foreign minister.

Abreu attended the Rio Group Summit held in Buenos Aires. He stated that it was a great honor to have been appointed as foreign minister and that the guidelines underpinning Uruguay's foreign policy drawn up and followed under Gros Espiell will remain unchanged.

Poll Shows Drop in People's Trust in Politicians

PY2611175892 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0310 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Montevideo, 25 Nov (EFE)—A poll released today demonstrates that Uruguayan citizens have increasingly less trust in the military men, policemen, and politicians to solve the national problems, and they believe that judges and businessmen are more likely to solve these problems.

According to a study by the company Equipos Consultores for the newspaper EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO, the people's confidence in the capability of the different social and institutional officials has dropped considerably in the past four years in Uruguay.

The newspaper states that the poll results may be demonstrating the public's disappointment with the performance of the Uruguayan political system.

The judges, who in 1988 were trusted by 42 percent of the public, remain at the top of the list even though their rating now stands at 33 percent.

The loss of confidence in the businessmen was not as great; it dropped from 30 percent in 1988 to 26 percent in 1992.

Union leaders are in a middle position. Confidence in them dropped from 24 percent in 1988 to 19 percent in 1992.

Politicians reached really low levels of trust given that 34 percent of the public trusted them in 1988, while only 15 percent trust them now.

Confidence in deputies and senators dropped considerably from 43 percent in 1988 to 21 percent now.

It is clear, the newspaper states, that the main segment harmed by the distrust are politicians, although it is not known whether this is a consequence of the public's disappointment with the political parties, the appearance of new social leaders, or merely a current situation that may disappear as the next election nears.

Trust in the police and the military men did not vary in the past four years.

Only 8 percent of the public believes that military personnel may be a solution for the country, while 15 percent of the public prefers the police.

In 1988 these figures were 12 and 21 percent respectively, according to the same polling company.

Venezuela

Court Said To Authorize Hearings Against Perez

PA0312001392 Paris AFP in Spanish 2316 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Caracas, 2 Dec (AFP)—Judiciary sources have reported that the Supreme Court of Justice Court of Preliminary Hearings authorized on 2 December, hearings against President Carlos Andres Perez.

The preliminary hearing, which will examine if there is merit for further proceedings, may end with the suspension of Perez—as in the case of Brazilian President

Fernando Collor de Melo. The hearings will be presided over by two judges: Supreme Court President Gonzalo Rodriguez Corro and Enrique Rizzo.

The Supreme Court of Justice reported on 1 December that it had admitted a request for trial against Perez, for alleged corruption, the "surrender" of territory, and for the privatization of the National Telephone Company of Venezuela, filed on 16 November by leftist Radical Cause Deputies Pablo Medina and Aristobulo Isturiz. On 2 December the court handed down its decision to admit the request and agreed to formally notify Attorney General Ramon Escovar and the Senate.

Medina explained to AFP that, after the magistrates complete the preliminary hearings, the Supreme Court of Justice in plenary session will examine their report and pass it on to Congress.

If Congress finds sufficient reason to begin legal proceedings against the president, Perez will be suspended from his post as chief of state for as long as the proceedings last.

This will be the first time that Venezuela will try a president while in office.

Perez, who came to power for a second term in 1989, should conclude his mandate in February 1994.

Soldier Claims Civilian Involvment in Coup Attempt

PA0312141192 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Telephone interview with Major Orlando Sibertei in Lima by unidentified Caracol Network reporters in Santa Fe de Bogota—live; monitored in progress]

[Text] [Sibertei]....The idea was never to assassinate Carlos Andres Perez. Quite the opposite. We wanted to capture him and then try him with all the necessary evidence for the great corruption prevailing in the Venezuelan Government. We wanted to try him and every other person who squandered the public money. This was our purpose. Later, we would call for elections so the people could freely elect their government.

[Reporter] Major, who would have been the members of this provisional junta of the government? Only military, or soldiers and civilians? How long did you intend to remain in power?

[Sibertei] We thought we could solve the country's most pressing problems in one year. The junta would have been made up of military officers and civilians. Most of the junta members would have been civilians.

[Reporter] Did you contact these civilians? Did they agree to be members of this civilian-military junta of the government?

[Sibertei] Yes. We had the whole scheme, which would have been put into effect as soon as we acquired control of power in Venezuela.

[Reporter] Did these civilians belong to the ruling Democratic Action Party or were there also members of the opposition and Social Christian Party parties?

[Sibertei] Most of them were independents. There were also party members and high-ranking Armed Forces officers.

[Reporter] Ideologically speaking, what movement was this?

[Sibertei] We are entirely democratic officers. Our movement was in favor of democracy.

[Reporter] Major, did the military rebel as a group or were you each trying to stage his own coup?

[Sibertei] What I observed in Venezuela is that there are groups wishing to impose their ideologies. Sadly, there is no unity. Coordination among these groups is very difficult. We do not regard ourselves as radicals. We think true democracy is missing in Venezuela. The law must be respected, but in Venezuela the law is not being respected and there is no freedom of expression. Politicians are taking advantage of this to express their ideas and to try to persuade the people that their way is the only way to do things. We, the military who participated in this movement, who possess education, and who have observed how people live elsewhere in the world, refuse to be restricted by a position that sets the country backward. We think the country can advance. The politicians have in fact delayed Venezuela's progress.

[Reporter] Major....

[Sibertei, interrupting] The vehicle that will take us to Lima, where we will reside for the time being, has just arrived. I would appreciate it if Caracol and the Colombian people do not forget about us—particularly the group of soldiers who have been detained by the Venezuelan authorities. Please help them and our relatives as much as possible, because they are the ones who are suffering in Venezuela. The Peruvian Government has treated us well and all of our needs are being met. Thanks and goodbye.

[Reporter] We would like to ask you one question. Four Bronco planes overflew Caracas and other areas. Where did you get fuel and support?

[Sibertei] All of the military air operations were conducted from the Libertador Military Base, which is well equipped for this type of operation.

[Second reporter] Major, we have a question. What do you think about the Venezuelan foreign minister and defense minister, who are military officers and work for the Perez government?

[Sibertei] I hope we will have a chance to speak again in Lima. Right now, however, we are getting the signal to board the bus bound for Lima. I have the station's telephone number. I will try to call you when I arrive in Lima. Thanks again.

[Reporter] Thank you for your remarks. We have been talking with Major Sibertei, who received orders directly from General Visconti, visible head of the foiled 27 November coup attempt. These remarks constitute fast breaking news because this is the first time officers who participated in the foiled coup attempt in Venezuela commented on the involvement of some Venezuelan civilians.

Radical Cause Party Reports Arrest of Candidates

PA0212231892 Paris AFP in Spanish 2228 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Caracas, 2 Dec (AFP)—Several candidates of the (leftist) Radical Cause Party for the regional and municipal elections slated for 6 December in Venezuela are under arrest, party deputy Pablo Medina said on 2 December.

The elections for governors, mayors, and council members will take place while some constitutional guarantees have been suspended as a result of the 27 November coup attempt.

The Radical Cause Party militants who are under arrest are: Noe Acosta, candidate for mayor of Cabimas (500 km southwest of Caracas), and Carlos John, candidate for council member of Puerto Cabello (100 km northwest of Caracas). May Flores, candidate for mayor of La Guaira, which is a port near to Caracas, was also arrested, but he has been released.

Medina also reported that Radical Cause deputy Carlos Melo was arrested (word indistinct) by the political police, who opened a dossier on him.

About 100 civilians have been arrested in the last few hours in Venezuela as a result of the investigations into the attempted coup in which ultraleftist groups participated, according to the government of Social Democratic President Carlos Andres Perez.

Orlando Chirinos, a university professor and writer, is also under arrest and is being held incommunicado, according to his relatives.

Perez Addresses Closing Session of Congress

PA0212033792 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1807 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Speech by President Carlos Andres Perez on the congressional closing announcement of the 1992-1993 regular sessions at Miraflores Palace in Caracas—live]

[Text] Mr. President of the Senate, Mr. President of Congress, presidents of the Senate and Congress Commissions, senators, and deputies: You are here to notify the executive of the close of the 1992 sessions. This comes only four days after our nation has experienced dramatic events—a new military coup attempt that generated anguish and even terror in the community. This was particularly true in cities such as Caracas that suffered air bombings resulting in panic and causing confusion among all Venezuelans for several hours. We are therefore at a time when meditation on the past events and the ratification of our democratic willingness should prevail over any other circumstances. This responsibility falls upon us, given our position as the leader and the director of the nation on the political front and in Congress.

If we have learned anything, it is the experience we gained after the 4 February incident. At that time, when making reference to that incident, we appeared to be amused by presenting our shortcomings, our errors. By underscoring our confrontations we seemed to be trying to justify the attempted coup. It would be very dangerous, it would be a fatal error that after this painful 27 November experience, that we should fall back and make the same mistake. It seems we Venezuelans have an uncontrollable passion to always highlight the negative side and to accuse ourselves by justifying what is unjustifiable.

I must proclaim here, on behalf of the Venezuelan people, on behalf of kind Venezuelans who love their homeland and democracy, there is nothing which can justify a rebellious action; a violation of the Constitution; a betrayal to the military oath. Nothing can justify that. This is the first expression of our determination and the honesty which should guide our actions whenever we are compelled to defend our democratic institutions.

It is true to say that we have made errors, to say that many times we have made mistakes, to say that we have been guilty of omissions of various kinds. This is true because it is the circumstances that always guide all human actions. Nevertheless, to use this as a cause, as a motive, or as a justification for a process in which laws are violated, in which Venezuelan brothers are attacked, in which the nation's weapons are seized to be used against our own compatriots, this should never be the Venezuelans' conduct or practice, if we truly want to live in liberty.

These years have been hard, difficult, and shocking. The process has been burdened, for sure, by errors and mistakes. Surely, both the executive branch and Congress have been deficient. Venezuela's judicial system is undergoing a crisis. We have no reason for hiding this true state of our fatherland. This situation is the product of a process, of a cultural evolution, a social process, an economic evolution. However, this situation also has united all the Venezuelans—regardless of sector, party, or social class—to wage the struggle we have been waging for three years. In 1989 we courageously assumed the decision to carry out an authentic state reform and to transform our economy, which had been standing on unstable and artificial grounds.

This is what we have to tell our people. We are saying: Yes, we have made mistakes, we have made errors, but we have always worked in good faith for the goal of improving Venezuela's situation, to bring progress to the party.... [pauses] the country, to bring true well-being to the nation. This is, senators and deputies, what I think we Venezuelans must do now if we do not want to bring more confusion to this suffering people whom we claim to love so much, if we do not want to bring confusion and uncertainty into the National Armed Forces, which on two occasions have demonstrated democratic strength and exemplary honor. The National Armed Forces have never hesitated in defending democracy. The fact that some military people of yesterday or of today have not demonstrated these qualities, does not deny the true spirit of the Armed Forces. By the same token, the errors, the difficulties, and the mistakes that could have been committed throughout this process, do not disqualify the work of the government, of Congress, or of the judicial branch.

If we sincerely want to harvest the product of the efforts and sacrifices that Venezuelans of today are making, we must acknowledge the fact that the executive branch has zealously fulfilled its obligations. It has tried to give the country the best and it has courageously faced the crisis we have been experiencing.

If we look at the work of Congress, in which we could find many mistakes, we would have to admit that in 1992 congressmen have worked, excluding the vacation period, on many important issues to improve the country's situation.

If we look at the judicial branch, we will find there are grave mistakes and problems, but we would also notice that important changes have been made there. Congress is studying bills aimed at pulling the judicial branch out of the serious problems it is confronting.

Knowing the state of the world's economy—the financial commitments which the Venezuelan state had to acquire, the situation in which we were in 1989—knowing that if this situation had been handled any other way, Venezuela would be drowning in hyperinflation. Venezuelans would be enduring an inconceivable situation of misery and hunger, and it is not suitable to grab all the negative facts, or to point to the executive branch's errors, or to say that the executive branch is an agent of the IMF that acts against the interests of Venezuela. It is not advisable to present politicians as Venezuelans who are intent on looting the public treasury, in harming the country's interests. It is not advisable to present the entire judicial branch as the one responsible for all the country's ills.

It is not right to say that we are not able to control crime or corruption or any kind of situation in the country, that we have not improved the public services situation or the situation of the country's poorest sectors.

At this time, so much confusion has taken place in the country that they want to convince us that this is a pseudo-democracy, which does not deserve respect, and the deputies, senators, ministers, magistrate, or president of the Republic do not deserve confidence. Messrs. Senators and Deputies, to bring this message to the people in a confused manner is really to create conditions that will make it very difficult for us to maintain and continue this process of transformation of the Venezuelan State and to overcome the prostration created by the economic situation.

We understand that there is no justification or explanation that will make us accept that criticism should be suppressed and opposition should end, because these are required to save the democratic process. That would also be a grave lie and it would represent a setback as damaging to democracy as the coup attempt, because it would convey the message that democracy cannot work but can only cover up the afflictions and evils of the country.

However, the use of [word indistinct] and the ability of the leaders to analyze what we have done, we are doing and what we will do.... [pauses] in reality, Venezuela has made progress over the last three years. It is moving toward a new path to lead the country. We are laying stronger foundations for our economic process. We are correcting so many mistakes experienced by Venezuelans. This is what we have to do at this time, Messrs. Deputies and Senators.

I, as head of state and a Venezuelan, feel a great deal of respect for Venezuelans, but I cannot accept this kind of behavior. I ask all my fellow countrymen, especially those who hold seats in Congress, to reflect on this. I ask you not to emphasize negative things and to recognize what is taking place in Venezuela. In the past, we made many serious mistakes. We should correct those mistakes, which are the product of the democratic lives of the people. We must correct those mistakes. However, we must not use those mistakes as the causes or motives that led to a coup and prompted a group of military officers to launch a coup attempt.

We already knew—we did not invent this—that a military group or mafia was created more than 10 years ago in the country to seize power in Venezuela. We learned that the process surfaced on 4 November [date as heard] due to some conditions created in the country by the transformations that were taking place, the great differences the country experienced, and the traumas caused by economic changes. However, to say now that those economic changes should have not taken place, that those are the causes of the pain we have endured, gentlemen, friends, fellow countrymen, this is very serious for the country. This could lead to confusion.

It is true that there are things that can be changed. However, we had to do what we did. We did what we did fully knowing what we were doing, and Congress approved all the decisions made by the government. They were criticized, but they were approved. These decisions were not approved out of complicity, but they

were approved because Congress knew these measures had to be taken and that, regrettably, we would have to endure the difficulties we are now experiencing. We know it was necessary to reach an agreement with the IMF. That agreement was negotiated with the interests of the Venezuelan State in mind, as was demonstrated when we submitted the agreement to Congress.

We cannot accuse one another of being responsible for implementing an action against the interests of the state. The Venezuelan people should know this. We can apologize for making mistakes and errors, but we cannot apologize for the honesty, sincerity, and great objectives of achieving well-being for Venezuela, because it would be unfair and illegitimate.

In the social sphere, what country in Latin America—as we are not on any other planet or latitude—what country in Latin America has the social programs Venezuela has? What country in Latin America best covers, despite the drama and tragedy, the conditions our country lives in? Those social programs are applauded all over the country. We who live in the city, we who have a certain economic standard, do not wish to see the overall importance of the school subsidy program—the milk coupon, the cereal coupons, school materials, uniforms, and shoes for the kids. We do not want to see the real meaning of the (Fami) program, which brings attention to children under six and to expectant mothers, provides nutritional supplements to these children and expectant mothers, and offers day care centers and nurseries for mothers who must send their children to school. [sentence as heard] We do not feel any of this here because we have no need for it. However, the people out there—our people who are listening to me now, and do feel it—know these are measures which aim to solve dramatic problems, and have prevented further nutritional degradation of the Venezuelan people, as the future surveys will surely show. We have been using the statistics provided by (Fundacredesa), which are quite good but only cover the years up to 1989. We want to use them as indicators of the current situation in the country.

We must reflect on all of these things now as we still hear the scream of the airplane engines, see the thunder of bombs crashing on our cities and causing such terrible damage, and feel the death of the young Guard of Honor soldiers and those of other regiments. Now, this tragedy we have lived through hangs over our shoulders; not only over mine but over those of all Venezuelans with some degree of political, social, economic, cultural, or scientific leadership. This enormous responsibility hangs over us all. We must not exercise this authority to create controversy, or to avoid accepting responsibility by passing blame on to others. We must exercise it to create a sense of solidarity and unity among Venezuelans, which we have not had. There are many fields where we can discuss; there are many fields where we can face off in ideological debates. There are other fields where there is, consciously, no other way to go but understanding. [sentence as heard] We cannot take advantage of a certain situation for our personal gain, if that will harm the democratic stability we are working for. That has been our objective since 27 February. [date as heard]

These.... [pauses] gentlemen, hungry for power, revealed themselves completely, showing who they were. The government said in November and in February that there was an alliance between a group of soldiers and the extremists of old; those who promoted the guerrillas in the past, those who were left behind, those who did not join political life. There was laughter and criticism when two of these outcasts, namely Douglas Bravo and Gabriel Puerta Aponte, were arrested. Even here there must be some of those who said it was ridiculous for us to be reviving the dead. Well, they are now fleeing. This movement was to explode in May. The government has not been without intelligence information. However, the intelligence it had was incomplete. When one has complete information, one can prevent a coup, but when it is incomplete, one must take preventive measures. There was intelligence information, and that is why this upheaval did not catch us by surprise on 27 November. They were all there. It is easy to take all necessary preventive measures where there is no democracy, whether right or wrong, just or unjust, to prevent whatever one chooses. When there is democracy, however, compliance with the law and with the rules of democracy prevent us from taking such measures. Nevertheless, on the very day of the events, a radio station was calling for the people to join the uprising and telling the (?gladiators) to aim their bombs at specific targets.

Today, some say they should not be punished for that. It was all recorded. It is not just a matter of hearsay. It has all been recorded; the recordings are there.

We might stray from the path of democracy or from strengthening that path due to political interests or to the elections. All of us might share certain ideas, regardless of whether we come from different parties and uphold different stands, but we are different from those who do not want democracy. That is another challenge of democracy: It allows everyone to live in the country. It even grants the same democratic liberties to those who want to destroy democracy, who want to impose violence. We also experience that in a democracy.

To accept that challenge, however, we must not allow anyone to confuse us. We must make clear distinctions so people will know for certain what the fields of action are. Just how far are we going to go?

Today I was told that the Supreme Court of Justice has admitted a suit against the president of the Republic. Why is the president being sued? I am being sued for having privatized the National Telephone Company of Venezuela [CANTV], which was supported by Congress, by all government offices, and because I gave part of our national territory to Colombia. The Venezuelan borders are well-known, respected, and defended by the sovereignty, by the sovereignty [repeats].... [pauses] by the, by the.... [pauses] by the force and capacity for defending our sovereignty of our National Armed Forces and by

the will of our people. Another reason is because of a loan made to the Workers' Bank that has already been repaid.

It is a suit that does not say.... [pauses] It says it is a suit on violations but not a suit.... [pauses] but that it is not an accusation, but nonetheless, the Supreme Court of Justice has admitted it. [sentence as heard] I do not criticize that. I am only pointing this out. Out of fear of what people will say, we are allowing certain things to advance in the country that are against democratic institutions.

Fellow countrymen, Venezuelans, we must agree on the essential bases of the democratic system. We must be different from those who are attacking democracy, and we must not give up any right of criticism or any right of controversy because that is what gives strength and dynamism to democracy. However, if we become confused and allow other elements to enter the picture and become confused within this, well, that will fatally take us to a confusion where our people will think—as some want them to think, and to this we have been dangerously taken—that we are all the same. [sentence as heard]

Our people will think that we politicians seek personal enrichment, that we seek benefits, and that we do not consider the people's demands at all. The people will think the government has done absolutely nothing to improve the country's conditions but that it has surrendered to the IMF and has made the worst deals.

How many bad things have we done? I do not doubt we have done some. How many things could we have done better? That is precisely the debate within politics, that is precisely the control that Congress has for testing laws and for testing all administrative actions of the executive branch. However, let us not fall into futile polemics.

The government deeply regrets that the tax laws were not approved in 1990. Had they been approved, we would not be facing the current deficit. Congress probably has other arguments for saying why the laws were not approved in time. However, I cannot.... [pauses] The government cannot accuse Congress of being irresponsible just like Congress cannot accuse the government.

I have spoken in this frank, sincere, and simple manner because Senator Edgar Flores' words hit me deep and caused me anguish, because it was like saying that all of those problems he has mentioned are the problems that led to the 27 November coup. I do not know.... [pauses] I know that was not his intention. I know that because I know who he is and because I also know the unyielding strength of the party to which he belongs. There is no doubt about that.

Unfortunately, we have been falling into a process of political controversy where we often forget what we basically have to defend. Within this atmosphere of confusion—as Deputy Paulina Gamus said—we have found important personalities who, in spite of everything, deserve our respect. These people have fallen into a negative attitude of criticism and confrontation that has confused the people.

We already know that one of the military men who escaped to Peru has referred to a leader and his intentions. We also know he is not telling the truth, that the two are not related at all. However, words, as Deputy Paulina Gamos so intelligently and insightfully has said, can betray us and can be used to commit crimes and to do many bad things. We can see that we, with our ambiguous language, are confusing many people.

I am going to conclude by stating that I must sincerely congratulate Congress because of the work it has produced this year. Some people do not want to acknowledge this and will say that the congressmen did nothing, that the deputies and the senators are people who do not fulfill their obligations. Many of the bills that have been passed have been read here. The bills are also evidence of the work carried out by the executive branch. I am talking about bills that were presented by the executive branch, by my administration in the framework of the plan aimed at radically changing the basis of our economic laws to give the country a new path. This proves that both the executive and the legislative branches have been working jointly, each in its own field. There has been cooperation which is creating a new climate and giving a new potential to the Venezuelan state.

What we have ahead of us is difficult because some important bills, tax bills, have not been passed yet: There is the business assets tax bill and the selective sales tax bill. Venezuelans: we need to impose these taxes. We cannot depend on oil alone. Oil is our big development tool, but if the Venezuelans do not contribute to the Treasury, we are doomed, we are heading for disaster. We realized this when oil failed us, when we lacked oil. We have to do what all the countries of the world have done. Venezuela's course has been exceptional.

We have to pass these bills soon or we will be running into debits which will bring inflation and inflation will bring hunger and misery to the country. These are facts. We must maintain the public expenditure reduction process and enforce austerity in the state. This is necessary. It is difficult to do, but we are doing it.

We also have to approve a bill that has been sitting in Congress for three years: the bill on a new comptroller system. We are being accused of being the most corrupt country in the world. This is an outrage. This is a falsehood. There is corruption, true, but it is also true that this is a calamity which all countries experience, although this is no consolation.

We have put an end to some corrupt practices. We have eliminated the reasons and the objective of corruption in Venezuela. If there is no export permit, there cannot be any selling of permits; if there is no exemption privileges, there can be no deal with this kind of privileges; if there is no preferential dollar, then no deal can be carried out

with preferential dollars. We have put an end to many deals, to many causes of corruption.

We have sent to court many cases involving illegal and irregular activities by the Venezuelan state. This is what we must keep on doing. However, we need the new comptroller system law. The bill was edited by the comptroller general himself. That is another law we need.

We need to modify other important laws to continue improving and establishing better controls over Venezuela's public administration because there are other causes of corruption.

We need to modify the privatization law to be able to continue with the privatization process. We have to modify the housing policy law to have the opportunity to improve conditions for the construction of housing for the people, after learning from the experience of the housing policy law we have had for the past three years. We need the law on banks and other credit institutions to definitely put under control some arbitrary bank dispositions that are criticized by large sectors of the population. Fortunately we already have the Central Bank Law, which gives the Central Bank full autonomy.

All these are control systems, systems to reduce the power of the national executive branch so that we may truthfully, without being hypocritical, fight corruption.

Friends of Congress, we do not want to be hurt by the pact for the reform. It has been said unjustly that none of its dispositions has been adopted. Many have been approved and others must be approved. We must approve a new reform to the electoral law to establish that at least two-thirds of the deputies and senators are elected by the people on a personal preference [uninominal] basis, as the entire nation is demanding.

We must approve the parties law, something that the people are also demanding and that is part of the pact for the reforms. The parties law would permit better controls over party finances. We have to tackle the judicial branch problem and reform the Supreme Court of Justice Law. We must reform the judicial branch organic law and the courts council law. These are bills that have been presented by the government and that are now in Congress.

We must modify the Safeguards Law [Ley de Salvaguarda]. The Safeguards Court [Tribunal de Salvaguarda] itself is requesting this modification. We must approve, of course, the special public credits and operations law because this law would serve as another control on the executive branch so that it may not whimsically urge Congress to approve public credit laws. From the moment a new budget goes into effect, the executive branch must inform Congress about the debts it plans to open during the year.

All this we must do. This way we will be able to satisfy the people's demands.

Our failure to provide this was not the cause of the uprising of the military men who betrayed the Constitution. Their betrayal is the result of hunger for power. Now it has been made clear that they were allied to the old extremists who in the 1960's provoked the rise of the guerrillas and the terrorism they wanted to produce now.

Fortunately, when they seized studios of Caracas' three most important television stations and presented the image of Lieutenant Colonel Chavez at the side of those muggers, they informed the country what was happening. When the Venezuelans saw the 100 kg bombs on Caracas streets, on the Carmelita Corner, and in other places of the country, the people realized what these dimwits, who can no longer be accepted as honorable members of the Armed forces, wanted to do.

Let's take advantage of this opportunity to tell our officers and soldiers that we are proud of them and that we know that democracy will always be the objective and purpose of the Venezuelans.
Thank you. [applause]

Resumption of Relations With Peru Under Study

PA2611005392 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 23 Nov 92

[Report by Milagros Rodriguez]

[Text] The Peruvian elections held on 22 November to elect the 80 members of the constituent congress that will assume the functions of the legislative branch dissolved by President Alberto Fujimori last April, drew the attention of the Venezuelan Government.

Foreign Minister Fernando Ochoa Antich noted that, since Venezuela had exerted great pressure in the OAS in support of the elections, it had followed the electoral process with great interest. He said Venezuela hopes that the constituent congress will signify a true return to democracy in Peru. Venezuela, however, will have to see the results first to determine whether or not it is convenient to resume diplomatic relations with Peru.

[Begin Ochoa Antich recording] We are studying the resumption of relations. We are awaiting the results in order to analyze the situation. We still do not have enough input. We will hear the opinion of the OAS secretary general and will consider all opinions in order to establish a sound policy. The Venezuelan Government and people hope this constituent congress will truly be the beginning of a process that will lead to the reestablishment of a democratic government in Peru. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Fernando Ochoa Antich said the country's current stand on Peru proves the consistency of the Venezuelan democratic regime since the time of former President Romulo Betancourt. The former president established that when democratic order was interrupted in an unconstitutional way in any country, Venezuela should abstain from maintaining diplomatic relations

with that country. This is what happened in Peru, according to Foreign Minister Ochoa Antich.

Resolution Resuming Trade With Peru Approved

PA2911183192 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] The 26 November ministerial meeting approved a resolution whereby 80 percent of trade between Peru and Venezuela will remain tariff-free. The decision, announced by Miguel Rodriguez Mendoza, president of the Foreign Trade Institute, marks the resumption of trade between the two countries.

Rodriguez said Venezuela currently exports to Peru close to $70 million yearly in nontraditional products and that Peru exports to Venezuela approximately $85 million yearly.

[Begin Rodriguez recording] We wish that, when Peru's suspension ends in December 1993, this country can be fully reinstated to the Andean Group and assume the duties and rights derived from its membership in this suregional integration scheme. [end recording]

Prison Holding Chavez Fired Upon, Soldier Wounded

PA0212234792 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2324 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Caracas, 2 Dec (NOTIMEX)—Several unidentified persons in a moving vehicle opened fire on a guard post at Yare Prison, southwest Caracas, official sources reported on 2 December, adding that Hugo Chavez, leader of the foiled February coup, is held there. Lorenzo Antonio Oviedo, a 21-year-old soldier, received bullet wounds to both legs, Radio Caracas reported citing official sources.

The government on 1 December denied that five Yare inmates had escaped and that Chavez had died. Chavez reportedly is involved in the civilian-military uprising of 27 November.

The radio station added that despite the heavy military surveillance in the area, no one was arrested following the attack. This is the second attack against military targets in the area since 30 November, when alleged guerrillas "harassed" the nearby Guaicaipuro Fort, the Defense Ministry has confirmed.

So far no rebel group has claimed responsibility for the attack. The government claims that the rebel "Red Flag" and "Third Path" rebel groups acted as infantry troops for the 27 November rebels.

Defense Minister on Arrests in Ciudad Bolivar

PA2611170492 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2250 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] Regarding the events of 23 November in Ciudad Bolivar, Defense Minister General Ivan Dario Jimenez Sanchez has reaffirmed that those under arrest are common criminals. He also reported that police have confiscated photographs showing the suspects counting money stolen during a holdup in a Ciudad Bolivar. The defense minister made the statements at the Miraflores Presidential Palace. He explained that the hurried way in which the report of an alleged assassination against President Carlos Andres Perez was reported, forced the executive branch to issue an immediate denial of said report, as the suspects were in fact common criminals. He reported that the police had confiscated several photographs which show the criminals counting the money they had stolen during the holdup at a store in Ciudad Bolivar, and also include evidence that they were using drugs.

[Begin recording] [Jimenez] They have allegedly been carrying out holdups in several parts of the country. This group moved from Valencia to Bolivar State. We cannot speculate on whether they were going to holdup a bank or not. We do know if they held up a store the day before.

[Unidentified reporter] What makes you so sure that their goal was to assassinate the president?

[Jimenez] That is simple. We found photographs, which were developed and delivered to me today, showing them counting money the previous day and they are believed to be consuming drugs.

[Reporter] But the conclusion....

[Jimenez] [interrupting] There is nothing that indicates they were planning an assassination attempt; just common crimes. [end recording]

The defense minister also spoke about the 13 billion bolivars approved by the National Congress, saying these funds will be used to implement the social Armed Forces' welfare program, which will continue throughout 1997.

General Otto Garcia Named Court Martial President

PA0312032892 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Report by Milagros Rodriguez]

[Text] Army Division General Otto Garcia has been appointed president of the court martial and will conduct the special trial against the officers who participated in the foiled 27 November coup d'etat. The aforementioned information was released by Defense Minister Ivan Jimenez Sanchez at the Miraflores Palace. He said the military code of justice establishes the procedure and added that decisions concerning personnel arrested for participating in the 27 November events will be made once the emergency court martial meets. Jimenez Sanchez also said the personnel who participated in the 4 February coup attempt are at the Yare jail and are in no danger.

[Begin Jimenez recording] I have not talked to their lawyers but there is no reason to fear for their lives. They have been at the Yare prison for the past 10 months and there have been no threats to their lives up to now. [end recording]

The defense minister reported that, according to unofficial information, approximately 51 rebel military staff will return to the country on a Hercules C-130 transport on 4 or 5 December. He said most of the returning people are subofficers and four are soldiers. Jimenez added that General Eutimio Fuguett Borregales is coordinating the flight with Peruvian authorities.

Police Announce Arrest of Rebellious Officers

PA0212171792 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Fifteen of the 35 members of the Z Group, which had been temporarily suspended from the Metropolitan Police Special Brigades, who joined the rebels on 27 November, have been placed in Judicial Technical Police [PTJ] custody. Some of the defectors were captured by security corps while others surrendered, announced Metropolitan Police Commander General Vinicio Barrios Puche.

Gen. Barrios stressed that thanks to the temporary suspension of the group prior to 27 November, it was not able to meet its objectives. According to Gen. Barrios, this group had been assigned the task of occupying Cotisa Metropolitan Police Headquarters and the governor's office there. The group was also to support the occupation of Venezolana de Television Network.

The arrested policemen were given a medical checkup at the Bello Monte Forensic Medicine Department. It is believed they will be handed over to the Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services [DISIP] and will later face a court martial.

[Begin Barrios recording] We captured 12 of them and three surrendered. We are searching for the others. They will be handed over to the military authorities. They will be charged with rebellion and will face a court martial. I wish to add that all the state security organizations are looking for these people because they are being held responsible for the deaths of the National Guard lieutenant and the three soldiers killed near Miraflores Palace. They are also being charged with the deaths of a member of the PTJ and a DISIP official who were killed near the University of Venezuela campus. [end recording]

Students Protest Arrest of School Mates

PA2611181692 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2250 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] Students from Francisco de Miranda, Julio Rosales, and Luis Correa High Schools in Los Teques, Miranda State, staged demonstrations today to protest the arrest of five students. The arrest of these students was carried out after a series of raids by Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services [Disip] agents, during which an unlicensed revolver and a large amount of printed subversive material was seized.

[Begin recording] [Lieutenant Colonel Ove Gedoe] This comes as part of a programmed joint operation with the Disip. First we carried out intelligence work and gathered information. On the question of these arrests being illegal, I would say no. These were completely legal raids, carried out with the proper warrants issued by a judge.

[Unidentified reporter] Where are these people? Are they at the Disip?

[Gedoe] Yes, they are at the Disip. [end recording]

Government Suspends 'Jose Vicente Today' Program

PA3011012492 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2319 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Text] Caracas, 29 Nov (EFE)—The Venezuelan Government today suspended the "Jose Vicente Today" television program aired by Televen, the private channel, on Sundays. Transport and Communications Minister Fernando Martinez Mottola sent a note to the station's board of directors announcing this decision.

This program is hosted by Jose Vicente Rangel, journalist and former presidential candidate of the Movement for Socialism. Rangel has harshly criticized the government of President Carlos Andres Perez.

The official measure is within the framework of the suspension of some constitutional guarantees, including freedom of expression. The government decreed this measure on 27 November when the Perez administration faced its second coup attempt in three and a half years of government.

At a news conference held today, Rangel said that he was surprised at this decision because the program that was to be aired today was recorded on 26 November, prior to the coup. Rangel noted that he is afraid the government will try to suspend his program indefinitely and announced that he will take legal steps to prevent it.

Citizens Favor Democracy Over Violence

PA0312031592 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1550 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Report by Jose Marcano]

[Text] The majority of the people are certain that democracy can only be strengthened through elections. The foiled 27 November coup attempt strengthened this conviction among the Venezuelan people. After the events on 27 November, Venezuelans saw the opportunity to reflect upon what they really want. According to official Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] reports, more than 8,000 people have called the council's offices

requesting information about where they should vote. Once more, the people have expressed their desire to continue within the democratic system, where they now have the opportunity to elect their governors, mayors, town council members, and parish boards. The coup attempt was not only rejected by international organizations and democratic governments from all over the world, but by the people themselves, who said, in defending their system, that only through voting can changes be made.

[Begin recording] [Marcano] In light of the events of 27 November, the Venezuelan people are faced with two alternatives: to choose events such as those or the 6 December elections. What is your opinion?

[First unidentified citizen] I prefer the elections.

[Marcano] Why?

[Citizen] Because we will be able to change to a new government.

[Second unidentified citizen] I would choose the 6 December election, because we can all express our opinion in democracy, and it is a no to violence.

[Marcano] Are you going to vote?

[Citizen] Yes.

[Third unidentified citizen] Logically the election, of course.

[Marcano] Why?

[Citizen] Well, because.... [pauses] they say that it is the way to say what we agree with and what we do not. Although we continue to protest and things stay the same.

[Marcano] Are you going to vote?

[Citizen] Yes, or course.

[Fourth unidentified citizen] The best is to choose with our vote. That is the best way.

[Marcano] Why?

[Citizen] Well, because it is a chance we have. We have an opportunity to defend our rights, so we should do so. Why not? Are we going to stand by while others do as they please? That is not fair. Right? If everyone is annoyed, the best thing to do is to express our opinion at the polls. Go ahead, vote.

[Marcano] Are you going to vote?

[Citizen] Of course I am.

[Fifth unidentified citizen] It is best for us to decide who will be our chief of state for ourselves. In so doing, democracy will then progress.

[Sixth unidentified citizen] We should make the changes at the polls and not the way they tried on 27 November. At the polls, and only at the polls, so we can continue in democracy, which is how it should be.

[Seventh unidentified citizen] Long live democracy. Go and vote. Voting is important, because when one lives in democracy, that is the way people such as us, who live in the poor sections, are able to defend democracy. Please vote, neighbors. [end recording]

This is really a demonstration of the political maturity that the Venezuelan people have acquired over these years of democracy. We take this opportunity to advise all those who would like information about where they should vote, to call 485-1515, where the CSE officials will tell you all you need to know.

Guyana

Commission Publishes Official Election Results

FL2511232592 Bridgetown CANA in English 2026 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Nov 25, CANA—Guyana's Elections Commission has finally declared the final results of the October 5 general elections. Out of 303,186 valid votes cast, the People's Progressive Party and a "Civic" group which teamed up with it took 162,058 votes, the People's National Congress [PNC] 128,286, and the Working People's Alliance (WPA) 6,068. The remaining eight small parties could muster only 6,774 votes. The commission said 5,666 ballots were rejected.

It published the results in a declaration in newspapers here, but gave no reason for the seven-week delay. But a senior official of the commission told CANA the electoral declaration system was thrown out of sequence by the sweeping constitutional reforms for the poll, including the counting of ballots at a place of poll.

He said the decentralisation of ballot-counting at polling stations had added confusion to the process. He said the results could have been declared within two days under the old system of counting ballots at centralised stations. Opposition parties before the elections had demanded a change, claiming that the former PNC government had used that system to manipulate the electoral process.

The elections, monitored by international observers, were marred by city-wide looting and violence, which left three dead.

Commission To Probe Election Violence

FL0112020092 Bridgetown CANA in English 2114 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Nov 30, CANA—A commission of enquiry to probe the events around Guyana's violence-hit October 5 general elections will be set up in early January, Guyana's Attorney General Bernard dos Santos said Monday.

"The commission of enquiry that we had promised the nation with respect of the events October 5 ... That is to say the storming of the elections comission office, the election irregularities, looting ... That commission is being set up now," said Dos Santos. "We expect the work of the commission to start in early January," the attorney general, also the minister of legal affairs, said.

Former Guyanese judge, B.O. Adams has agreed to act as the sole commissioner. Adams, also a former judge in the Bahamas, is to collect evidence on the events through hearings. The election-day violence erupted after thousands gathered in front of the elections commission building claiming they were disenfranchised, pelted stones, and stormed the building.

Looting quickly spread to the main shopping centres in the capitals as hooligans smashed shop windows and tore down wrought iron grills to plunder the stores and other businesses. The looting and other violence continued for the next 24 hours, leaving three dead, several more wounded and hundreds arrested. President Cheddi Jagan had promised to establish the commission in a national broadcast shortly after being sworn in.

Constitution Ammended To Postpone Local Elections

FL0312001992 Bridgetown CANA in English 2135 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Dec 2, CANA—The two-month-old People's Progressive Party/Civic Government is moving to amend a section of the Guyana Constitution to postpone local government elections. Attorney General Bernard de Santos said Wednesday the government already had in its possession a draft bill for the postponement which will be tabled in the new Parliament when it convenes sometime this month. Local government elections were due to be held before the end of this month.

"The municipal elections ought to have been held by December. They now can't be held, so we are envisaging legislation to formally postpone them to a period not exceeding six months," De Santos said. "That legislation is already prepared and waiting and as soon as we get into parliament, that is one of the first things we will be doing," he added. De Santos, also the minister of legal affairs, denied the postponement represented a breach of a PPP/Civic election campaign promise. The coalition had promised to hold local government elections soon after it got into power.

But the minister said: "No, it is not a breach of promise at all. As a matter of fact, it was impossible for (the elections) to be held within the time frame which we got after the elections." De Santos said proper voter registration and other measures had to be put in place before the elections could be held. "We are going to do all of that within that six-month period." Local government elections have not been held here since 1976.

Former PM Excluded From List of Parliamentarians

FL2511232792 Bridgetown CANA in English 2039 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Nov 25, CANA—Former Guyana Prime Minister, Hamilton Green, thinks his exclusion from the list the main parliamentary opposition People's National Congress (PNC) has selected for Parliament can "destroy the party." Green was excluded along with 10 former ministers from the PNC's list of 23 elected members of Parliament. The list was submitted to the Elections Commission earlier this week by PNC leader, Desmond Hoyte, former Guyana president.

The privately-owned STABROEK NEWS newspaper on Wednesday reported Green, deputy PNC leader, as saying he first learnt of his exclusion at 3:05 PM Monday and was "shocked."

"(My exclusion) is a serious matter and can destroy the party," Green, the PNC's longest-serving parliamentarian, said.

He added: "I will be discussing it wth the membership. This is not the end of the matter. I intend to raise it in party fora."

Under Guyana's proportional representation system, successful parties are allocated a number of seats after a general election. It is left to each party to choose whichever candidates it wants to sit in Parliament.

The central executive committee of the PNC, its second highest- decision making forum after its biennial congress, meets Thursday. Chief executive officer of the PNC, Malcolm Parris, said Green could raise his exclusion at this meeting.

Green, the former minister of health, told the press he was notified of his exclusion in a "short, formal meeting" with Hoyte Monday afternoon. The STABROEK NEWS, quoting senior party sources, said there had been some "friction" between Green and Hoyte before the election, over the new faces in the party and disagreements on some aspects of policy.

Foreign Ministry Reorganizes Overseas Service

FL2811191692 Bridgetown CANA in English 1826 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Nov 28, CANA—The head of Guyana's mission in Brussels has been dismissed in the latest development of a re-organisation of foreign postings, the privately-owned STABROEK NEWS newspaper reported Saturday. The daily said high commissioner to London, Cecil Pilgrim, had been sent on pre-retirement leave, and Brussels head James Matheson fired. But the paper reported ambassador to China, former director general of the Foreign Ministry, Ronald Austin, and representative to the United Nations, Rudy Insanally, were likely to retain their posts. It also said the consular services in

Moscow, run by James Hudson, were also likely to remain untouched. Foreign service officer, John Murray, previously assigned as minister-counsellor in Guyana's Washington mission, is being recalled to the Foreign Ministry.

The diplomatic shake-up has been unfolding following a tour of Guyana's North American and European missions by Foreign Affairs Minister Clement Rohee. The changes are included in the new government's plans to re-organise its overseas service to boost efficiency and slash costs.

The report comes amid confirmations from the ministry earlier this week of the recall of ambassador to Venezuela, Cheryl Miles and firing of the heads in Ottawa, Suriname, Brazil, and Washington. Guyana's consul general in New York, Fitz Dorway, was also sacked.

The country's foreign service bill, including embassy rentals and salaries, is estimated to cost more than Guy 3 billion dollars.